Gov't peace negotiators complaining, squabbling

STORY BELOW, COLUMN 2

Where's the youth?

BAKIT WALANG DUMATING?

By Blanche Rivera

WHERE were the registrants?

The Commission on Election officials were ready, the registration forms complete, the funds more than sufficient. But if the first-day turnout is any

WHERE'S/A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

After Mikey, GMA's youngest son engaged

DATO ARROYO

WEDDING bells will ring at the Palace early next year when the youngest son of President Macapagal-Arroyo and Mr. Mike Arroyo, Diosdado Ignacio Jose Maria "Dato" Arroyo Jr., 27,

AFTER/A16

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Tuesday, May 21, 2002 ★ 50 pages / 4 sections / vol.17 / no. 162 P15 website: www.inq7.net

British bishop sells mansion, returns to basics of faith

LONDON—Amid sex scandals involving Roman Catholic priests in Europe, the United States, and even the Philippines and Hong Kong, a Catholic bishop is going back to the essence of his faith: charity and humility.

Patrick O'Donoghue, the Roman Catholic bishop of Lancaster, plans to sell his $1.46-million official residence, donate the proceeds to charity and become a nomadic minister.

He will also test the generosity of his priests when he hits the road, by asking them to put him up in their presbyteries, according to the Guardian newspaper.

"I want to become a bishop on the move," the 68-year-old prelate was quoted as saying. "My job is not that of managing director of The Church Plc, but servant of the word of God and shepherd of the flock."

Much of the money raised by selling the 16-room Victorian mansion will go to projects dealing with deprivation and drug abuse in the north England towns of Preston, Blackpool and Barrow-in-Furness. Some of the money is earmarked for inter-faith projects.

BRITISH/A16

'If anything happens to Jinggoy . . .'

By Volt Contreras

LIKE an angry lion defending a wounded cub, a desperate-sounding ex-President Joseph Estrada worried about the fate of his son yesterday let out a primal roar.

Asked about the medical condition of his co-accused son Jinggoy after the former San Juan mayor was rushed Thursday night to the Makati Medical Center, the elder Estrada snarled: "If something happens to him . . . *magtatabla-tabla na kami.*"

"*Tabla-tabla,*" in street lingo, loosely means all bets are off, making everything about the perceived enemy "fair game."

He did not specify whom he meant, but he was obviously re-

IF/A16

Scrap senators' pork, House leader urges

Solons gang up on Lacson's anti-graft proposal

AFP

A BIG HAND FOR A LITTLE LADY: President Macapagal receives on Monday an honorary Doctorate of Laws from Takayasu Okushima, president of Waseda University in Tokyo, where the President is on a five-day working visit to reinforce economic ties with Japan. *(Story on Page A2)*

By Juliet L. Javellana and Rocky Nazareno

SCRAP the pork barrel, but only those for senators.

Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr. (Lakas) made this statement in response to Sen. Panfilo Lacson's call to abolish the pork barrel, which the senator said is a source of corruption.

Pork barrel refers to money from the national budget that finances projects identified by legislators. As much as 60 percent of the budget for an infrastructure project is lost to corruption, according to Lacson.

Pichay, who fought for a bigger pork barrel in the recent House row over public works funds, said senators should not be entitled to pork barrel because they don't have a specific constituency.

"There are constitutional grounds for pork barrel allocations for the members of the House since they represent their districts. But now that senators brought up this issue, I'm not sure that they should have pork barrel," he said.

Article 24 of the Constitution gives the House the power of the purse, thus allowing congressmen to identify projects for their districts, according to Pichay.

Three senators, who said they had "no problem" giving up their pork barrel, expected strong objections to Lacson's proposal from House members.

"The presence or absence of pork barrel is not that crucial for senators. It's not a life-or-death issue in so far as the careers of senators are concerned . . . but in the House that is a crucial issue," Senate President Franklin Drilon said.

Sen. Francis Pangilinan said congressmen would resist the

SCRAP/A16

Gov't peace negotiators squabbling

By Ayan C. Mellejor, Charlie S. Señase and Edwin O. Fernandez
PDI Mindanao Bureau

TWO GOVERNMENT peacemakers are out in the cold. One is sulking; the other is complaining.

Former Justice Secretary Silvestre Bello III, chief government negotiator with the communist-led National Democratic Front, has been sidelined. A presidential adviser has been authorized by President Macapagal-Arroyo to conduct back channel talks with the NDF.

Jesus Dureza, the government's chief peace negotiator with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, was indisposed immediately after the MILF signed two controversial agreements with the government. Dureza was not a signatory to both agreements.

Has Dureza been replaced as head of the government panel negotiating peace with the MILF? The public doesn't know.

In a meeting in Malacañang last Saturday, Bello complained that Norberto Gonzales, presidential adviser on special concerns had not coordinated with his panel.

"I was not dismayed. I just clarified the relationship between the panel and the back channel team . . . It's better if there is coordination so we can help in their back channeling effort," Bello said.

Bello said yesterday that he was still the chair of the government panel talking peace with the NDF.

"Who said that (I have resigned)?" Bello said in a radio interview.

He admitted that Gonzales had taken over as the "back channel" negotiator.

Bello disclosed that the NDF had re-

GOV'T/A16

East Timor independent at last

DILI, East Timor—With the world watching, the small island territory of East Timor proudly took its place among the community of nations on Monday, triumphing at last over its long history of brutal oppression by foreign occupiers.

Lest the country forget those bloody struggles, grisly scenes of torture filled wide screens as the country declared independence just after midnight Sunday in a joyous, but at times tearful, ceremony in the seaside capital of Dili.

Shortly after the raising of the new national flag, Xanana Gusmao, a 55-year-old poet and former guerrilla leader, was sworn in as East Timor's first head of state. Having served more than six years in jail and house arrest, he was elected president in the UN-supervised vote last month.

"Independence! As a people, as a territory, as a nation! One body, one mind, one wish!" Gusmao said, reciting a poem he wrote himself.

After a nightlong independence party, hundreds of people crowded in front of the former Portuguese colonial palace in Dili to watch Prime Minister Mari Alkatiri swear in 23 Cabinet ministers and state secretaries.

"We have to create a solid, transparent and good government," Alkatiri said after

EAST TIMOR/A4

A CELEBRATION of independence for the East Timorese shortly after midnight Sunday when they became the first new nation of the millennium.
REUTERS

Veterans Bank lies at center of conflict

By John Nery
in Manila
and Yolanda Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

(Last of two parts)

WAR OF THE VETS
An **I-TEAM** *Report*

YOU will start a war between veterans, lawyer Romeo Roxas warns the INQUIRER.

He only means to point out the fighting nature of the men involved—soldiers and guerillas who have been through the worst parts of the country's history. But his remarks also reveal what is actually at stake: not only the fate of veterans organizations in the country but—most important—the reputation of feisty old men on both sides who have given the best years of their life defending the country.

If there will be a conflict between veterans, the flashpoint will be the Philippine Veterans Bank (PVB), simply because that's where the money is.

Retired Col. Emmanuel de Ocampo, PVB chair and longtime president of the Veterans Federation of the Philippines (VFP), says the rehabilitated bank is rock solid: "It's a very strong bank. We have cash of P4 billion in the vaults. We have resources of P14 billion."

His daughter, Esperanza de Ocampo, an assistant secretary general at the VFP, ticks off critical indicators: "It is the No. 1 bank in liquidity, No. 4 in solvency, No. 6 in solvency among all banks." By that, she means both foreign and local banks doing business in the country.

A former ranking official of the bank refused to be interviewed but referred the INQUIRER to prospective sources with a telling remark. The government

VETERANS/A16

USAPANG SEGURIDAD PARA UMUNLAD!

Gloria raises terror issue in Japan

By Elena R. Torrijos

TOKYO (via PLDT)—President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday proposed that countries in the Asia-Pacific create a mechanism that would address security concerns in the region.

In a speech yesterday afternoon at the Waseda University, where she accepted an honorary doctorate in law, the President said, "It may be time for our region to explore more formal security arrangements."

It was the start of the President's five-day working visit here. Today she is scheduled to meet with Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi.

In a speech prior to boarding a Japan Airlines commercial flight to Narita, she said she hoped to discuss with the Japanese prime minister "his initiative for closer economic partnership with the Philippines and the rest of Asean (Association of Southeast Asian Nations)."

Ms Macapagal described Japan, the Philippines' biggest trading partner next to the United States as "our closest neighbor outside of Asean."

Asean consists of Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Burma, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Internal breakdown

At Waseda, the President called on the Asean Regional Forum (ARF), where member-countries can discuss security concerns, to "move beyond confidence building and advance into preventive diplomacy and conflict resolution."

She pointed out that current security problems arose from the internal breakdown of weak states or territories. She said any such state, "as shown by Afghanistan, could become a base of operations for terrorists, a haven for criminals, or dumping ground for toxic waste."

The keys to a prosperous and stable Asia-Pacific region are multiple linkages, and these would have to include a security dimension, the President stressed.

In this regard, she said the region should have a mechanism similar to the Organization of American States and the Organization of African Unity, which provide a comprehensive approach to problems in their respective regions.

She noted that the United Nations had been delegating some stages of intervention in failed states to "coalitions of the willing," and that this was a mechanism that helped guarantee the sustainability of policy implementation.

2 considerations

In suggesting stronger regional security ties, the President said two major considerations should be remembered. First, full importance should still be accorded bilateral arrangements and unilateral initiatives. Second, there should be no intention to form a regional alliance like the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, which specifically aims to contain military crises.

"An organization with a more comprehensive outlook is definitely preferable, incorporating not only political and security consideration, but also economic and human security and even environmental cooperation," the President explained.

She said the Asia-Pacific region could learn from the ARF, which operates by consensus and depends on its members' conforming to norms and acting upon principles that they themselves have defined and agreed to.

Vested interests

The international community had a vested interest in rescuing failed states, President Arroyo said, and that the important policy questions were by whom, and to what degree of commitment.

She cited Cambodia and East Timor as examples of how concerted efforts of interested parties have helped ensure regional stability. The Asean was active in nursing Cambodia back to health in the early 1990s. And now, with East Timor, she said, Japan and the Philippines, under the Japan-Philippines partnership program, were cooperating to ensure that the new nation would have stronger state institutions.

In conferring the honorary doctorate on the President, Waseda University cited her "outstanding powers of leadership and sense of values based on honesty, labor, ethics, initiative and discretion."

She was also commended "for leading the Philippines to the highest level of growth in the East Asia, and raising the level of international confidence in the nation."

Previous foreign recipients of honorary doctorates from the prestigious university are: Jawaharlal Nehru and Shrimati Indira Gandhi of India, Francois Mitterand of France, and former Philippine Presidents Corazon Aquino and Fidel Ramos.

This is Ms Macapagal's second visit to Japan since she became president last year. She is scheduled to deliver the keynote address to "Future of Asia" international conference in Tokyo later today, and address the "Asia and Japan in the 21st Century" symposium in Osaka on Thursday.

Tomorrow, she will meet with the Keidanren business group. She said she would present to the group the accomplishments of her administration in the political and economic fields, "as well as our prospects for higher economic growth in the future."

Guingona allays fears on tripartite terror pact

By C. Balana

THE TRIPARTITE agreement on counter-terrorism, which the Philippines signed with Malaysia and Indonesia recently, will not drag the country into a wider war in Southeast Asia.

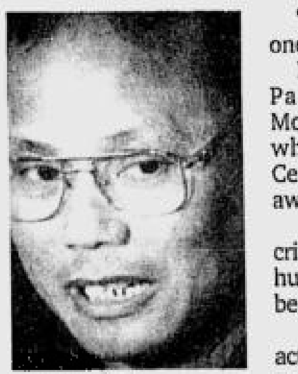
The assurance was made by Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona during a public hearing by the Senate foreign relations committee which was scrutinizing the agreement. The committee is chaired by Sen. Blas Ople.

The agreement was signed in Kuala Lumpur during President Macapagal-Arroyo's visit there to bolster the anti-terrorism campaign in the region.

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez told the committee that the agreement may be described as a "framework agreement" building on already existing forms of cooperation, including joint patrol and border crossing agreements.

Lawyer seeks to hold off arrest of YOU leader

By Martin P. Marfil, TJ Burgonio and Christian V. Esguerra


CARDEÑO

THE LAWYERS of Supt. Rafael Cardeño will try to hold off his arrest by filing a court case today questioning the Philippine National Police's decision to launch a hunt for him.

Lawyer Reynaldo Cardeño, brother of the alleged mastermind in the killing of self-proclaimed Young Officers' Union spokesperson Baron Cervantes, yesterday said he and another lawyer, Homobono Adaza, would file the case before a Quezon City court.

"We'll try to stop the PNP's arrest order," Reynaldo said in a phone interview, adding that PNP chief Director General Leandro Mendoza and other officials would be named respondents.

Mendoza said Cardeño would be assured of fair treatment should he turn himself in for investigation.

The PNP chief said Cardeño should take a cue from his friend, Supt. Diosdado Valeroso, who showed up last week to deny involvement in Cervantes' killing.

"Superintendent Valeroso showed up even though his name did not crop up in the investigation. That's how a police officer should behave. If you're being linked to a crime, you should show up. That's your obligation to the organization," Mendoza said.

Due process

"I assure them that we will follow due process. We base our cases on the pieces of evidence that we recover," Mendoza added.

Leonard de Vera, chair of the seven-member team of private lawyers looking into Cervantes' killing, said it had the goods on Cardeño.

"We have two direct witnesses pointing at Cardeño," De Vera said, referring to ex-Marine Sgt. Joseph Mostrales and Jaime Centeno.

De Vera said police told him and members of Cervantes' family at a meeting yesterday that the two men admitted during interrogation that they met with Cardeño right after Cervantes was gunned down in Las Piñas on Dec. 31.

"That admission is a crucial one," De Vera told the INQUIRER.

Following his arrest in Pangasinan over a week ago, Mostrales admitted that it was he who shot and killed Cervantes. Centeno allegedly drove the getaway vehicle.

Reynaldo Cardeño had earlier criticized the PNP for initiating the hunt, pointing out that no case had been filed against his brother.

The PNP had tried to justify its action by saying that Cardeño was a police officer who was duty-bound to come out in the open.

Reynaldo retorted that his brother was arbitrarily discharged from the service in November 2001, so there was no justification for the hunt.

Awol, so far

Yesterday, the PNP said Cardeño had merely been declared absent without leave (Awol).

De Vera said that pending the filing of charges against Cardeño, he and the other private lawyers would urge the PNP to initiate dismissal proceedings against him for going Awol.

"We are holding the PNP responsible for him," De Vera said. (The PNP) should produce him. If they won't act, it would seem that they're protecting their own."

Mendoza took offense at Adaza's insistence last Friday of Cardeno's lawyers that the hunt for him be called off.

"Why would they give us a deadline (for the lifting of the hunt order)?" he said in reaction to reports that Adaza had set a three-day deadline for the PNP.

Mendoza said he was not bothered that Adaza might make good the threat to sue PNP officials for continuing the hunt, which he described as lawful.

"That's fine with us. That's part of the risk that we have to take. We're going to continue our job. We're going to continue our investigation. The case is still with us. So we can still invite suspects for investigation," Mendoza said, adding: "If the lawyer thinks we are violating the law, that's his prerogative. Definitely we're not going to violate any law."

Deputy backs choice of Ebdane as PNP chief

THE DEPUTY director for comptrollership of the Philippine National Police yesterday called on the police officers and men to support the choice of President Macapagal-Arroyo of Deputy Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. as the successor of PNP Director General Leandro R. Mendoza.

"As committed police officers, we must close ranks and work as a team in fighting criminality in the country at this crucial time, instead of rocking the boat and adding to the already tense political situation," said Director Deputy Director General Reynaldo V. Velasco.

Velasco made his appeal in the wake of published opposition by some police officers on the President's choice of Ebdane.

He also denied insinuations by some quarters that he was part of the effort to derail Ebdane's anointment.

"I was not, and will never be, part of the disruption of the PNP's chain of command. It is not simply my style. My professional record in the uniformed service attests to this," he said.

Velasco said he had just been promoted as police deputy director general on April 10 and will only be due for compulsory retirement in the year 2005 which is three full years into the future. His is 53.

"By 2004, I will be the most senior police officer when General Ebdane retires. If I am destined to lead the PNP in a higher capacity, it will come in due time with the blessings of the Almighty and the appointing power," Velasco said.

"The President's record of giving strong weight on merit and seniority in her previous appointments of top police and Armed Forces of the Philippines officers clearly show the wisdom of her decision. I believe her choice of General Ebdane as the next PNP chief was considered with the best interest of the nation in mind," Velasco said.

He admonished the police officers and men to rally behind the Commander-in-Chief's decision and continue to rally behind the leadership of General Mendoza, who stays as PNP chief until the end of September this year following the extension of his term by the President.

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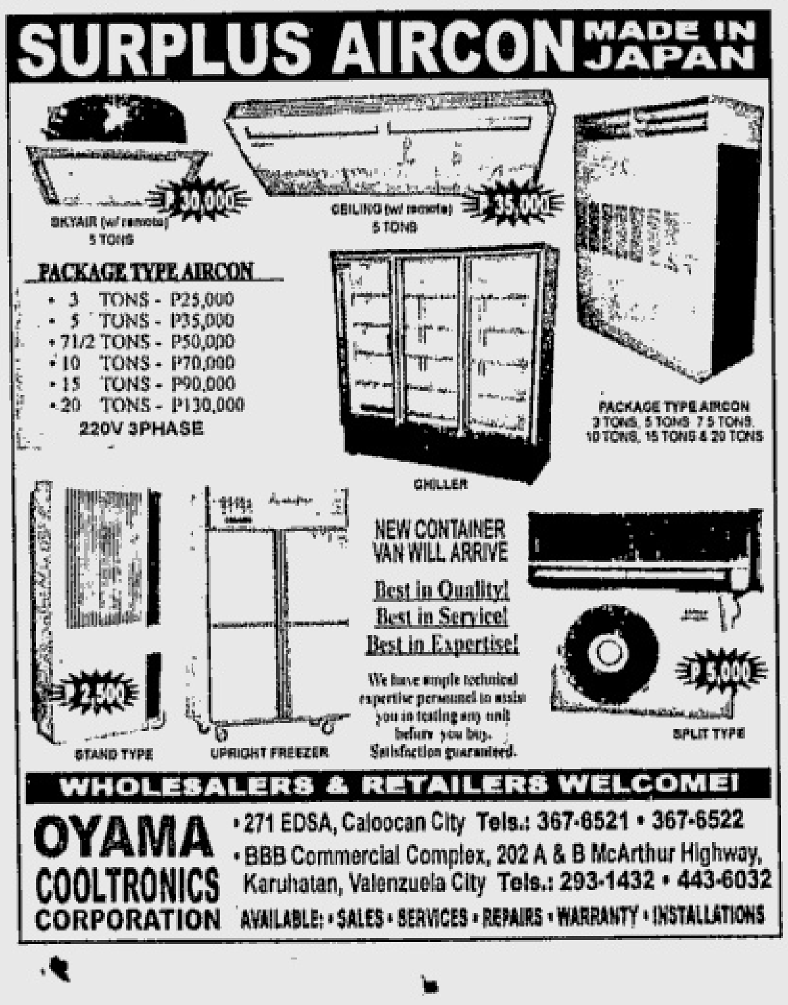
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Desierto forms panel to probe coup raps

By M. Ubac and C. Balana

OMBUDSMAN Aniano Desierto created a high-level panel yesterday to investigate the mutiny charges filed against Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and other military officers for their roles in last year's People Power 2 uprising. Reyes was Armed Forces chief of staff then.

In a one-page order, Desierto gave due course to the complaint for the "crime of coup d'etat" filed Thursday a group of newspaper publishers and columnists by ordering Overall Deputy Ombudsman Margarito P. Gervacio Jr. to constitute an investigating panel to probe Case No. OMB-C-C-02-0263.

The panel will be chaired by Deputy Ombudsman for the military Orlando Casimiro with Assistant Ombudsman Edward Harun Pagunsan, legal office director Andrew Ammuyutan, administrative adjudication board director Mary Susan Guillermo and evaluation and preliminary investigation bureau investigator Medwin Dizon as members.

Desierto gave the panel 90 days to do its job.

Desierto, however, inhibited himself from the investigation because "among other things, I had a longstanding personal association with some of the respondents." He did not elaborate.

The complaint was filed by publishers Niñez Cacho-Olivares and Amado Macasaet and columnists Horacio "Ducky" Paredes, Herman Tiu Laurel and Angelito Banayo, all known supporters of deposed President Joseph Estrada. Banayo was one of Estrada's political advisers.

They invoked a 1990 law punishing coup plotters after Reyes and the other officers withdrew their support from Estrada on Jan. 19, 2001, on the fourth day of the People Power 2 uprising or Edsa 2.

Their action sealed the fate of Estrada who was forced to vacate Malacañang.

The complaint sought the administrative suspension of Reyes and recently retired AFP chief of staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva for at least six months, as well as the filing of criminal charges against all the respondents "for the crime of coup d'etat."

The complainants drew much of their evidence from a book, "The Fall of Joseph Estrada," written by INQUIRER consultant and columnist Amando Doronila.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, however, predicted yesterday the case would not prosper in court.

"It's not so much the issue of the success or failure of a coup, but the quality of the evidence presented against the respondents" (that will make the case), Perez said.

"Under the law, the crime (of coup d'etat) was committed if the act was accompanied by violence, intimidation, strategy or stealth. I am not aware of any violence used by Reyes, or of any strategy or stealth (accompanying the act)," he added.

Perez said the complaint could not rely on a diary or book. "If the only evidence against the generals is Doronila's book, there is not enough basis—or probable cause—to charge Reyes and the others," he said.

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RP moves to forge links with East Timor

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday welcomed East Timor's nationhood and said Manila would seek close ties with the world's newest nation.

"The birth of a new nation is the fruit of bold determination on the part of East Timorese and the support of the international community," Ms Macapagal said in a statement.

"The Philippines joins the international community in welcoming the declaration of East Timor's independence, having moved from devastation to the establishment of the foundations of a new country and the reconstruction of basic infrastructure that can support economic and social activity.

"With the able and enlightened leadership of President Jose Alexander (Xanana) Gusmao and Prime Minister Mari Alkatiri, the Philippines is confident that East Timor will be able to meet the challenges of nation-building and sustainable development."

In a statement, Ms Macapagal said that the Philippines "is keen on having a vibrant and dynamic relationship with East Timor."

Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas, the Philippines' official representative to the independence declaration, is to sign a joint communique Monday "establishing diplomatic relations with the newest nation in the 21st century."

East Timor and Philippines are the only mainly Roman Catholic nations in Asia.

After the signing, Canlas is to inform the East Timorese government of Manila's "human resource development assistance package" for the new nation.

Details of the package were not immediately available.

The Philippines diplomatic relations will be handled through its embassy in Jakarta, with Rafael Seguis serving as concurrent ambassador to both Indonesia and East Timor. *AFP*

East Timor independent at last

From page A1

the ceremony, adding that the new government would focus on reconciliation with East Timor's former occupier, Indonesia.

As dignitaries looked on, several hundred soldiers from East Timor's newly created defense force joined former veterans of the resistance in a parade to commemorate their 24-year bloody struggle for independence.

"For years we fought against Indonesian soldiers in the jungle, now we parade to show solidarity with our countrymen," Ajeldito Guterres said as he marched in front of the palace, now the seat of government.

"I salute you—people of East Timor—for the courage and perseverance you have shown," UN Secretary General Kofi Annan told an exuberant crowd.

"Yours has not been an easy path to independence. You should be very proud of your achievement," Annan said.

He was one of many foreign leaders, including former US President Bill Clinton, who attended the birth of the world's newest country.

Megawati

Gusmao, however, missed most of Sunday's ceremony. He spent the time with Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri, accompanying her on a visit to a cemetery containing the graves of Indonesian soldiers killed in East Timor.

The gesture revealed the enormous importance East Timor's leaders were placing on establishing good relations with Indonesia, a country whose brutal occupation killed tens of thousands of people.

Gusmao and Megawati entered the arena together. They held hands and raised them aloft as the crowd cheered and applauded.

On flags, bandanas and baseball caps, East Timorese wore their national colors—red, white, black and yellow—wherever they could fit them Sunday.

Tens of thousands of people smiled, cheered and hugged each other in an outpouring of emotion at the celebration, which ended four centuries of Portuguese colonial rule, 24 years of Indonesian occupation and 2 1/2 years of interim rule by the United Nations.

VIPs from around the world, including Portuguese President Jorge Sampaio and Australian Prime Minister John Howard—watched the show from a covered stand made from bamboo.

The locals—parents with young children playing at their feet, students and old men and women in village dress—sat cross-legged on the grass.

East Timor is not only the world's newest nation; it's also one of the poorest. About 40 percent of the country's 800,000 people are illiterate; unemployment is estimated at 70 percent.

"Everything will start from zero, but I am sure it will work out because we are starting with freedom," said Joao Freitas, a 22-year-old student.

A 50-foot-long float, in the shape of a crocodile with a little boy sitting atop it, was wheeled into the arena. Legend has it that Timor Island was once a giant crocodile befriended by a local boy, who then rode the oceans on its back.

After hundreds of years of foreign occupation, East Timor voted in 1999 for independence from Indonesia in a UN-sponsored referendum. A few days later, Indonesian troops and anti-independence militia gangs went on a rampage that devastated the half-island territory and killed hundreds.

Tribute to heroes

During Sunday's eight-hour independence extravaganza, huge TV screens showed occasionally grisly scenes of emaciated bodies and torture victims. The crowd cheered—and many wept openly—when pictures of the resistance leaders were displayed during a tribute to the heroes of the independence struggle.

The audience was treated to a display of traditional dance and music. At one point, dozens of tribesmen from different regions of the country rode into the arena on horseback to the sound of drums and flutes.

Old ghosts haunt the new country—a speck of land in the 4,800-km-long) archipelago that is home to 200 million Indonesians.

Indonesia will be East Timor's top foreign policy priority because of its proximity and economic dominance. East Timor also wants to prevent disgruntled Indonesian officers from inciting pro-Jakarta militiamen still living in refugee camps in Indonesian West Timor.

Megawati has spent much of her political career opposing East Timorese independence. But she decided to attend the independence celebration anyway—a decision that angered hardline lawmakers at home.

Oil, gas revenue

Reducing poverty will be the biggest challenge facing the new government. East Timor signed a treaty with Australia on Monday dividing oil and gas reserves under the Timor Sea.

But revenue from those reserves—about $5 billion over 17 years—is not expected to kick in until 2005. For the time being, the country will be largely dependent on foreign aid.

In East Timor's new parliament building, Speaker Francisco Guterres inaugurated on Monday the 88-member assembly in front of Annan.

In its first act, the legislature voted to sign the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights and become the newest member of the 189-strong world body later this year.

On the other side of town overlooking Dili's seafront, Clinton raised the Stars and Stripes at the new US Embassy.

"I don't think we can defend everything we did," Clinton, who arrived in Dili on Sunday for a two-day visit, said in response to a question about US support for the Indonesian military regime that invaded East Timor in 1975.

"I don't believe America or any of the other countries were sufficiently sensitive in the beginning or for a long time," he added. *AP*

UK bishop sells mansion . . .

From page A1

"We need a revolution in the Church," the bishop said. "I want to say to my people, and hopefully to other people, too, that the Church is more than big houses, which are status symbols from another era."

Priests in the 109 parishes of O'Donoghue's diocese told the area's 116,000 Catholics of O'Donoghue's decision on Sunday.

He said that without a revolution in the Church, he and his priests would end up as "caretakers of mausoleums and museums rather than as caretakers of the poor."

Priest shot by victim

Elsewhere, the Catholic Church continued to grapple with child-sex scandals.

A Maryland priest shot last week by a former parishioner, who alleged the cleric sexually abused him as a youth, could be forced to confront new allegations of pedophilia, the Washington Post reported on Monday.

The new allegations of possible felony child abuse against Reverend Maurice Blackwell were outlined in two 1998 letters faxed late last week by Catholic Church officials to Baltimore prosecutors, according to the Post.

A source familiar with the letters told the daily that the abuse occurred more than 30 years ago and involved a man who had since moved out of the state.

It was unclear whether prosecutors received the original letters in 1998 and, if so, what was done.

The source said the allegations contained in the letter seemed to constitute a possible felony offense, which would not be subject to the statute of limitations in Maryland.

"We plan to contact the police (Monday) to see if anyone has any recollection of this matter," Margaret Burns, a spokesperson for the state attorney's office told the Post, adding that there was no current investigation of Blackwell by her office.

Molested for 3 years

Blackwell, 56, was shot several times on the street last Monday after a brief conversation with ex-parishioner Dontee Stokes.

Stokes, 26, who turned himself in to police later that day, accused the priest of molesting him repeatedly over a three-year period that ended in 1993.

No criminal charges were filed against Blackwell as a result of Stokes' allegations in 1993, but Church leaders said they had curtailed the priest's work with young males.

Blackwell, who was released from the hospital on Saturday, has denied abusing Stokes, who was released on bail and is currently on house arrest.

Burns told the Post that investigators also have been meeting periodically with the archdiocese to discuss allegations against other priests in Baltimore.

The head of the Baltimore archdiocese's independent board that reviews child abuse allegations said it had been swamped with claims of child abuse perpetrated by priests in the last two months.

The panel has reviewed roughly 76 cases of alleged child abuse by priests since 1993, including 12 new cases in the Archdiocese of Baltimore since April.

Reports by Reuters, AFP

Where's the youth?

From page A1

indication, the special registration for the July 15 Sangguniang Kabataan election is about as popular with the text generation as an analog cell phone.

Citing reports from the field, Election Commissioner Resurreccion Borra said the members of the Comelec registration committee were the only ones who trooped to the various registration centers in barangays yesterday—with the exception, he ruefully noted, of "two to five registrants" as of yesterday morning.

Borra said the very low turnout dramatized the indifference Filipino youths felt toward the SK, whose relevance some sectors have contested. Borra said "weak factors" in the nature of the SK have contributed to this sense. He cited the fact that its officials are still either students or young workers who could not stay in the barangay hall most of the time.

Young people see this working arrangement in the SK and become convinced that the young leaders that they had elected were not serious in their tasks, he added.

"That's why many feel that the officials are not serving them," Borra said. "The SK has not been responsive to the needs of the youth; the dynamics of the SK performance has become alienated."

The result of this year's elections could boost a move in Congress to abolish the SK and instead put in place a youth council staffed by appointees.

Tomorrow, not today

But Borra said something cultural was also at work: He blamed the Filipinos' "mañana" habit—which puts off for tomorrow what can be done today—for the low turnout of registrants. He said past experience shows that people throng the polling precincts usually on the last day of registration. The special registration for youths 15 to 17 years old ends today.

Borra said the Comelec expected young applicants to crowd the barangays and schools today. The special registration is being held to give those youths who failed to enlist during the continuing registration from July to December last year another chance to enlist.

But the chances of hitting the target of 3 million registrants were low, Borra said, even if many young people enlisted today.

"If we had seen that the youths were eager to vote (yesterday), maybe we could (reach that). But there were very few, and even if they crowd the barangays (today), I don't think we can meet the 3-million target," Borra said.

He was quick to absolve the Comelec from the low turnout, saying the poll body would no longer be at fault if the registration failed because it had waged a "massive information campaign" to encourage the youths to participate in the political exercise.

The Comelec was chided last year for the disenfranchisement of some 4.5 million young voters who failed to register because of the Comelec's bungled information campaign.

In Piagapo, a town in Lanao del Sur, teachers refused to sit in the registration committee allegedly because the Comelec had yet to pay them for their services during the elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao last November.

Borra said the Comelec was already investigating the charges because the money for the honoraria has been given to the election officer in the town a long time ago.

"They should serve. We're going to pay them everything that we owe them," he said.

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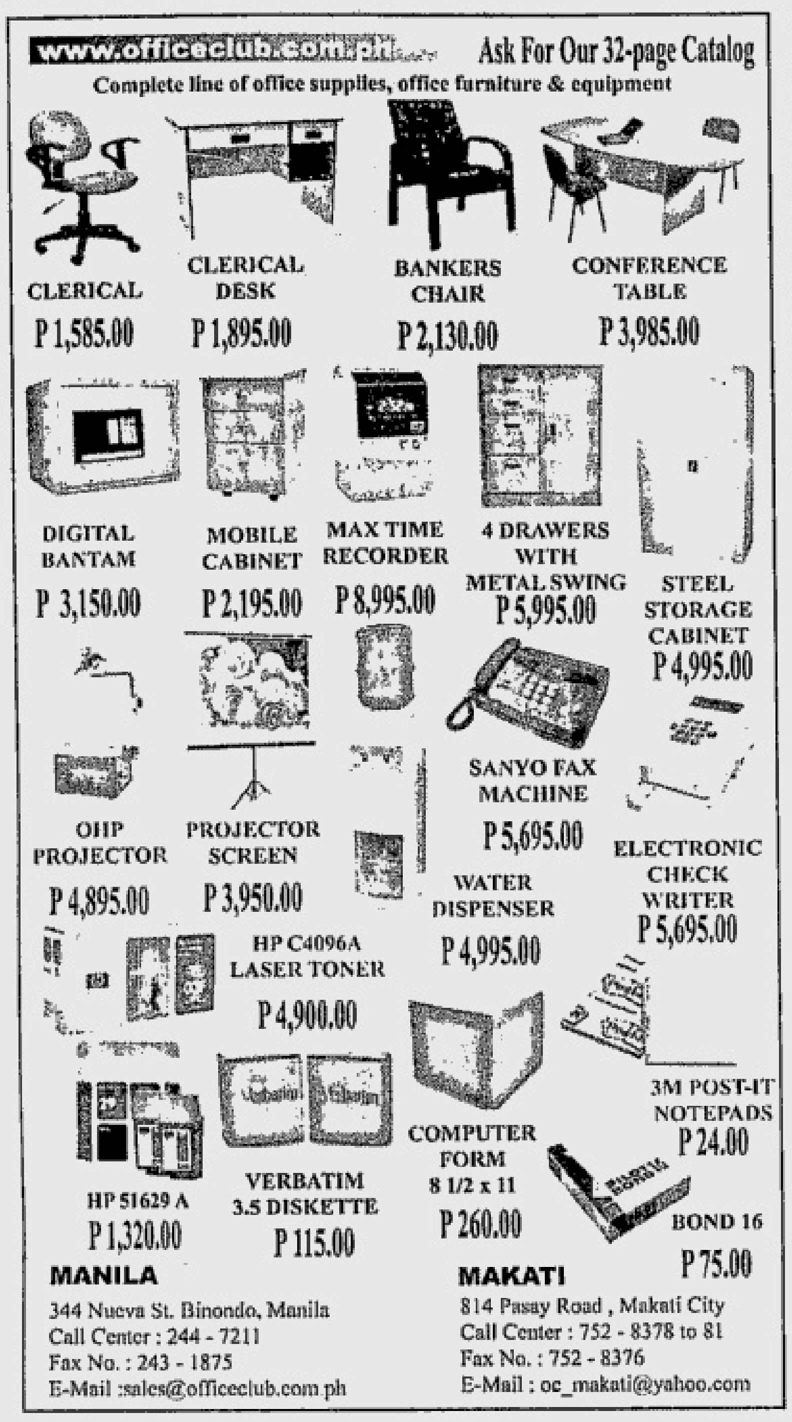

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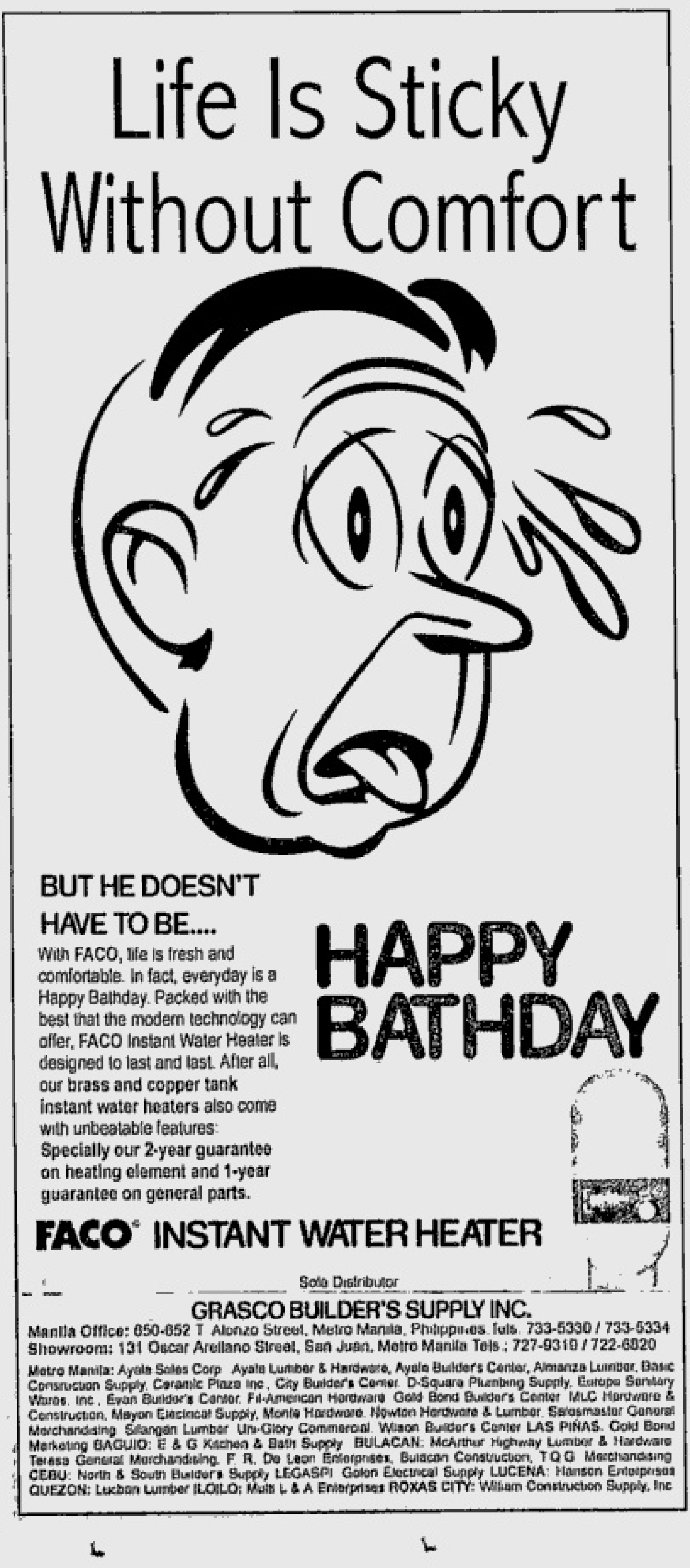

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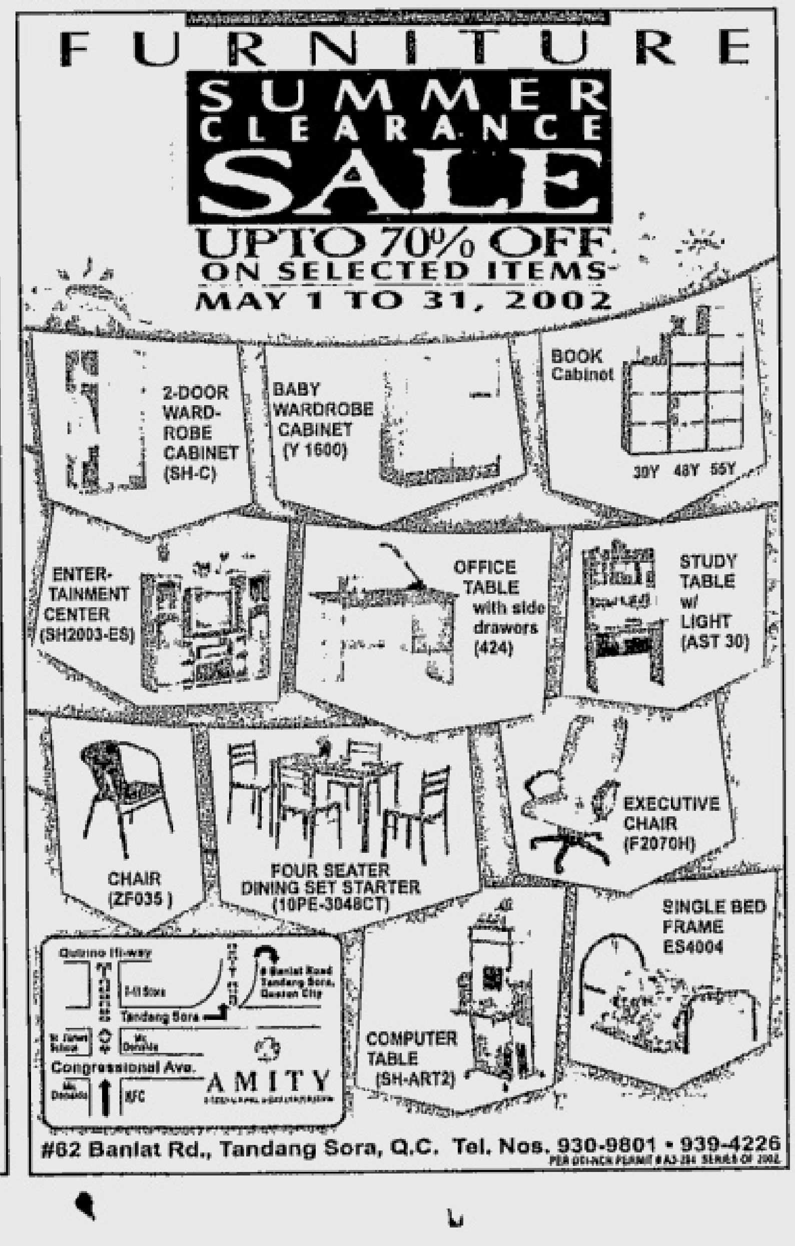

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Strong peso to keep oil prices stable, says Perez

By Ronnel W. Domingo

LAST weekend's round of fuel price increases may be the only one this month, after the peso gained significant strength against the dollar.

This was the contention of Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. who noted the peso had breached the P50 to $1 level for the first time in 14 months.

"The exchange rate now averages P49.82 to $1," Perez said. "The last time it was below P50 was in March 2001 at P48.51 to the dollar."

He said the peso recovery countered the rise in international crude prices.

As for a petition to increase transport fares, the energy chief said this was premature since fuel price hikes this year have not exceeded the total of oil price decreases late last year.

He said this year pump prices have gone up by P1.61 per liter, while prices went down by P2.21 per liter in the fourth quarter of 2001.

"A request for a fare hike may be untimely (now)," Perez said.

Local oil companies raised the prices of gasoline, diesel and kerosene by 39 centavos per liter over the weekend.

Oil company executives said they might raise prices still further this month if crude prices did not go below $25 per barrel.

The average crude price in April was $24.51 per barrel. This was up to $25.04 last weekend.

"If crude prices stayed below $25 per barrel, we could probably delay additional increases to June," said Roberto Kanapi, Pilipinas Shell corporate communications manager, in a telephone interview.

Virginia Ruivivar, Petron corporate communications manager, said: "If average crude prices drop to about $23 per barrel, we may no longer raise prices again this month."

"We have no plans yet for a second round of increases in May," Ruivivar added.

5 kidnappers of Korean slain

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—At least five suspected kidnappers of a Korean national were presumed killed after their group clashed with soldiers in Sarangani on Sunday morning.

No casualty was reported on the government side, and Col. Naldo Balboa, spokesperson for the Army's 601st Infantry Brigade, said it was possible that other members of the gang were wounded in the clash. He added that the fleeing bandits dragged away the bodies of all the slain suspects.

Balboa said the encounter took place between the Army's 7th Special Forces Battalion led by Maj. Dencio Antonio and the Abu Sufia kidnap-for-ransom gang led by a certain Commander Kam Bat, in Barangay Tuanadatu, Maitum town, at around 6:50 a.m.

The Korean Jae Keon-yeon was abducted with seven others on Feb. 6 near Palembang, Sultan Kudarat.

Balboa said the firefight, which lasted for several hours, took place after the military checked on reports that the kidnappers had brought their captive to the village.

Soldiers overran the gang's mountain lair but failed to recover the Korean.

Instead, the military retrieved some photographs of Jae and his captors, an M16 rifle, two M1 Garand rifle, a 40mm GL M79, ammunition, personal belongings, and a VHF ICOM radio.

Balboa said he believed Jae was alive, based on information from villagers.

On Feb. 6, gunmen allegedly belonging to the Moro Islamic Liberation Front's 204th Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces Brigade under Commander Tigre Jakiri snatched Jae, General Santos hotelier Carlos Belonio, and six other persons who were on their way here from a business transaction involving nickel babbits.

The six captives were soon released to relay the P5 million ransom demand for Jae's and Belonio's freedom.

The government responded with a military operation that yielded at least five suspected kidnappers.

The MILF leadership was tapped to negotiate for the victim's freedom, but talks bogged down after the military implicated the rebel leaders in the kidnapping.

Belonio was released after his family reportedly paid "board and lodging" fees.

Balboa said the military operation to rescue Jae was continuing. ***Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

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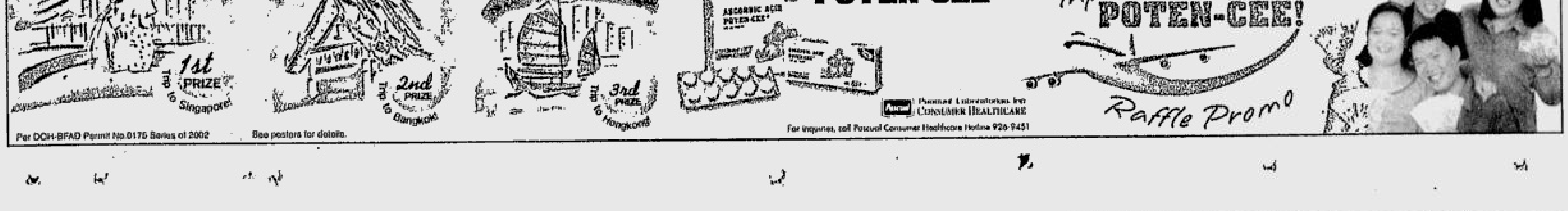

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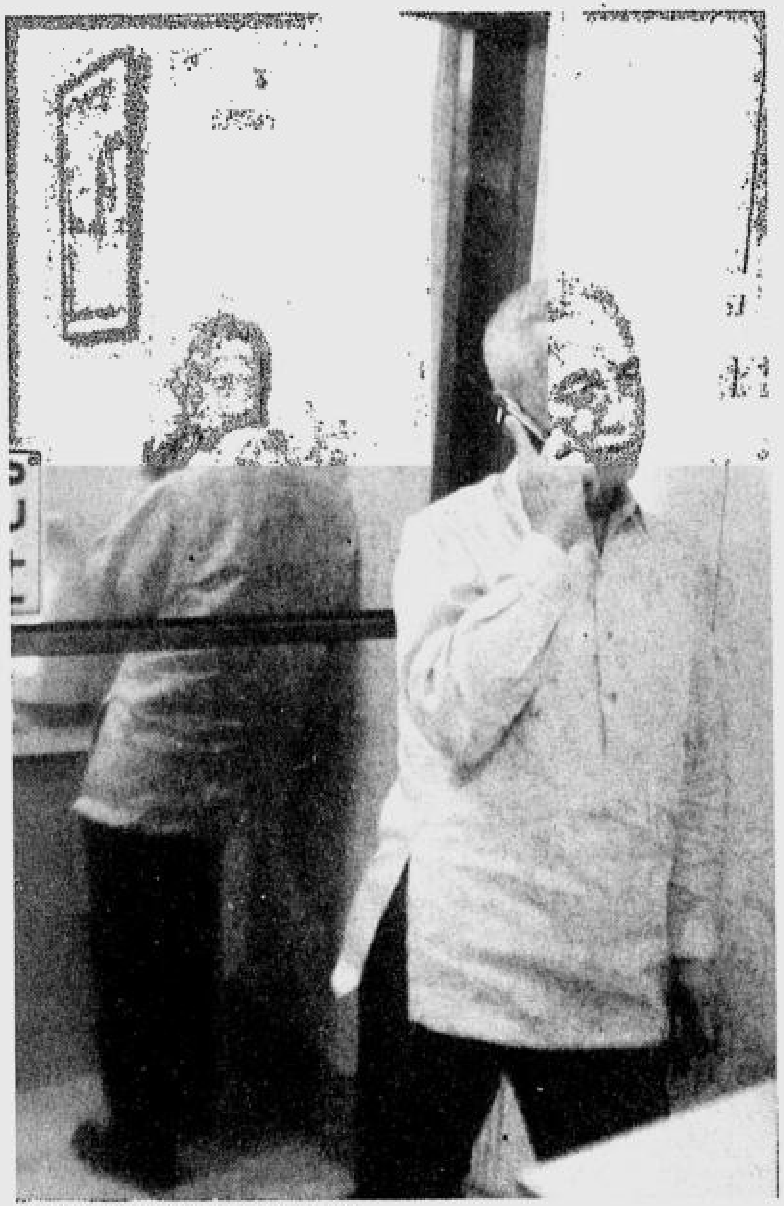

TEVES at WPD headquarters

Teves arrested for contempt over unpaid CARP land

FORMER legislator and now Land Bank of the Philippines president Margarito Teves was arrested yesterday because of the government bank's alleged failure to pay for 54 hectares of riceland in Nueva Ecija.

Teves, a former congressman of Negros Oriental's Third District, was put under "indefinite arrest" on the orders of Napoleon B. Baguilat, presiding adjudicator of the Department of Agrarian Reform Adjudication Board (Darab) of Cabanatuan City.

It was the first time Darab issued a warrant of arrest against a Land Bank president. Land Bank is the implementing agency of the agrarian reform program.

Darab, whose powers are equivalent to a Regional Trial Court, had accused Teves of contempt for not complying with its order to pay several landowners the amount of P75 million for the ricelands that the government would acquire in behalf of the farmers under the agrarian reform program.

Darab deputy sheriff Eduardo A. Santos and two associates, plus four policemen from the Western Police District Warrant Section served the warrant at around 1 p.m. yesterday at Teves' Land Bank Plaza office in Malate, Manila.

"It was OK. They were courteous," Teves said of the arresting team. The offense is non-bailable. At press time, the Land Bank president was still being detained at the WPD headquarters along UN Avenue. Outside, more than 20 Land Bank employees waited in an expression of support for their boss.

Teves said he was waiting for a call from President Macapagal-Arroyo, who was in Japan, together with Land Bank chair Jose Isidro Camacho.

The Land Bank, the country's fifth largest lender in terms of assets, earlier contested the valuation of the property in a Special Agrarian Reform Court.

One of the landowners named is former Justice of the Court of Appeals Fernando Santiago. Also named is a certain Loreto Santos. The farmland was put under the Marcos government's land reform program in 1972, but up to today, its ownership is still being contested. The owners have refused to turn over their land titles until they are properly compensated.

Teves said paying the amount sought by the landowners would be disadvantageous to the farmers and to the government. He said the Land Bank had valued the whole property at around P3 million—or only a little over P50,000 per hectare, based on a formula prescribed by Marcos' Presidential Decree 27. That amount is already in the bank, he said, but the owners want P1.4 million per hectare.

But Santos and other members of the landowners' alliance, the Solidarity of Landowners Inc., maintains that the property is worth about P75 million based on another formula under the President Corazon Aquino's Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.

The landowners had appealed to the Darab, and on March 6, the board ordered Land Bank to deposit P75 million in the landowners' name. Teves refused, saying it wasn't a reasonable amount. "The farmers may not be able to pay for the property because their output from rice farming would not be sufficient. It would also set a dangerous precedent."

Teves failed to attend another Darab hearing on May 14. His lawyer told the board that the Land Bank could not deposit the money since a Special Agrarian Court (SAC) was still hearing the case.

Teves said he was willing to stay under arrest until the issue is settled.

"Whatever it takes, as long as the case is presented to the right authorities," he said.

Napocor debts seen to increase without Meralco

By Ronnel W. Domingo and Christine O. Avendaño

THE STRANDED costs in National Power Corp.'s contracts, which consumers will have to pay under a universal charge, would surge by $500 million (about P2.5 billion) if the Manila Electric Co. went ahead and broke off its 10-year supply deal with Napocor two years ahead of schedule.

This was the contention of Edgardo del Fonso, president of the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (Psalm), who said yesterday this would mean an additional three to four centavos on top of the 40-centavo universal charge to consumers.

Instead, Psalm proposed, the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) should peg the universal charge at 40 centavos and lengthen the payment period to 20 years.

Separate bills have been filed in the Senate and the House proposing implementation of Psalm's proposal.

Disconnection notice

Last week, Meralco treasurer Rafael Andrada said the utility had sent Napocor a notice ending the 10-year supply contract.

The contract was supposed to run through 2004, but Andrada said the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (EPIRA) has superseded it.

"The law does not abrogate the contract, but we are resolving the issue on the remaining two years," Del Fonso said in a telephone interview.

Napocor president/officer in charge Roland S. Quilala said last weekend his firm was willing to resume talks with Meralco on the power supply deal.

"Only Napocor and Meralco can solve whatever differences in interpretation they may have on the contract," Quilala said.

The two parties argued mainly on whether Napocor could impose fines on Meralco if the latter failed to buy the agreed minimum of 3,600 megawatts a month from Napocor, and whether Meralco could break off the agreement unilaterally.

But in a separate interview, Meralco vice president Ivanna de la Peña said the utility was willing to talk with Napocor only about a transition supply contract.

"If we will renegotiate, it would not be in the context of the 10-year contract," De la Peña said.

The minority bloc in the House of Representatives is set to file cases in court as well as a measure in Congress to question the validity of the PPA charges, minority leaders said yesterday.

Through the proposed bill and three class suits to be filed against Napocor, the minority is demanding that consumers be directly reimbursed for the PPA they have been paying since 1993 and which is believed to total P4 billion today.

The minority leaders said Napocor could reimburse the PPA by crediting it to the future billings of customers.

Senior deputy minority leader Rep. Constantino Jaraula said Napocor could also convert the PPA payments to equity and make consumers co-owners of the plants of the independent power producers.

Class suits

"The truth is most of the investors in IPPs put in meager amounts but (their contracts were covered) by sovereign guarantees," Jaruala said, referring to the loans the government gave the IPPs.

He said the three class suits to be filed next week represent consumers in Luzon, the Visayas and Mindanao who have questioned the "take or pay" provision in the Napocor contracts with the IPPs.

"Take or pay" obligates Napocor to pay for electricity it was contracted to generate, whether the power was used or not.

In the Senate, energy committee chair Sen. Renato Cayetano has proposed a three-year moratorium on PPA payments by residential consumers and a one-year hiatus from the onerous charges for industrial and commercial end-users.

The energy committee and the committees on ways and means and public utilities wrapped up hearings on the PPA yesterday.

Under Cayetano's proposal those consuming 50 kilowatts and less each month after the three-year exemption would be "perpetually exempted" from paying the PPA.

For those consuming over 50 kw but not more than 300 kw, the first 50 kw will be charged half of the PPA while the balance up to 250 kw will be charged the full amount of the PPA.

"With this exemption, over 10 million instead of only 7.5 million consumers would benefit from lower electricity bills," Cayetano said.

Cayetano said the three-year moratorium would have "no effect on the fiscal and financial position of the government." *With R. Nazareno*

Cops puzzled by farmers with anti-aircraft guns

WHAT are "farmers" doing with anti-aircraft guns?

Police are stumped by their seizure of a cache of high-powered firearms, including two 50 cal. machineguns, from 17 men claiming to be farmers and workers during a raid in Quezon City on Saturday.

Director General Leandro Mendoza, chief of the Philippine National Police, said that investigators have yet to establish where the arrested men obtained the machineguns and what they planned to do with these.

"This is the first time we seized such heavy artillery in Metro Manila. These are anti-aircraft guns, who are next to cannons in terms of firepower," he said, referring to the pair of seized machineguns.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines and the secessionist group Moro Islamic Liberation Front, he added, have a stock of machineguns of such caliber. "Not even the New People's Army rebels have this," Mendoza said.

He, however, said that the custodian of such machineguns could be traced through their serial numbers.

The raiding team did not recover any ammunition for the machineguns. They also confiscated one M1 Garand rifle, three 12 gauge shotguns, a 38 cal. revolver, a hand grenade and ammunition.

Mendoza also said that investigators have yet to establish whether the men rounded up during the raid belonged to a dissident terrorist group.

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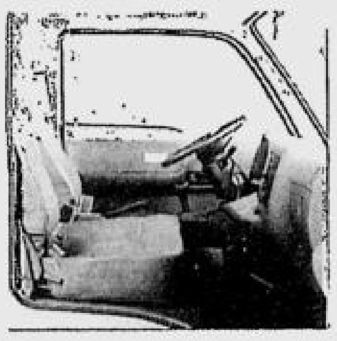

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Witness' guard in rape raps sacked

By Michael Lim Ubac

JUSTICE Secretary Hernando Perez yesterday sacked a security officer of the government's Witness Protection Program who allegedly raped a government witness on March 26.

Gerry Lintan, alias Rustom Yap, was dismissed from service based on the recommendation of an investigating body composed of the WPP executive committee.

Perez told reporters that the committee recommended Lintan's dismissal after it had established indiscretion on his part.

"In his statement executed with the National Bureau of Investigation, he denied the rape but claimed they had an affair," said Perez.

Perez said that WPP rules strictly prohibited guards from engaging in an intimate relationship with government witnesses.

"A WPP guard has no business having an affair with the person being guarded," he said.

As regards his criminal liabilities, Lintan still faces rape charges lodged against him by his alleged victim.

"Lintan's dismissal is without prejudice to the preliminary investigation of the rape case being conducted by the Quezon City Prosecutors Office," he added.

Lintan was preventively suspended last month pending the result of the NBI investigation.

Perez ruled out a pardon or lighter penalty for Lintan, saying "if there is rape, it can't be forgotten."

The alleged rape incident also triggered an examination of all WPP security officers who are guarding vital government witnesses in several safehouses across the country.

"I have ordered WPP (chief Leo Dacera) to subject all guards to greater scrutiny. They must pass a test showing that they can be trusted with the lives of the witnesses," Perez said earlier.

On April 19, the victim—a 29-year-old housewife—sought the help of Dante Jimenez, chair of the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption, as she accused Lintan of raping her in a Quezon City safehouse.

The victim is a witness in the brutal murder of a relative over a land dispute in Pangasinan in 2000.

She and her family were placed under the DOJ's WPP when two armed men abducted and threatened her. She was later freed in Tarlac.

She said that the rape allegedly occurred inside an apartment where she, another witness, and their families were being housed.

She claimed that she went downstairs to wash her daughter's feeding bottle when Lintan embraced and punched her before dragging her into the room.

He then pushed her to a bed, where she was allegedly raped. She further claimed that Lintan attempted to rape her two days later while she was leaving the bathroom.

The second attempt did not prosper, however, because she was able to grab a kitchen knife.

The witness said she left the protection program on April 2 after Dacera allegedly failed to immediately act on her complaint.

The witness, her security guard-husband and their 4-year-old daughter had already moved to a small apartment after the incidents.

Jimenez had asked Perez to provide protection to her.

"This is a case where a safehouse becomes a house of danger, where a witness is harmed than protected," said Jimenez, who urged Perez and Dacera to evaluate the country's protection program and sack erring security officers.

Drought destroys ₱392M in crops

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

STILL months before the onset of the El Niño phenomenon, at least P392 million worth of crops have been destroyed by drought in the summer season, the Department of Agriculture reported yesterday.

The DA said the agriculture products destroyed as of May 20 included rice, corn, fisheries, high value commercial crops, and other products in a total land area of 78,177 hectares.

Ernesto Ordoñez, DA undersecretary for operations, said 20,000 hectares of the drought-stricken areas have no chance of recovery.

Ordoñez said with 69,947 metric tons of rice worth P195,797 million were destroyed in the drying up of 44,000 hectares of rice lands in the Cordillera Autonomous Region (CAR), Regions 1 to 4, 9 and 12.

The current drought has also damaged 28,759 hectares of corn with an estimated volume of 44,749 metric tons worth P172,976 million. 738 hectares of vegetables farms were also affected by the drought which destroyed P5.4 million worth of products.

The devastation to other crops was recorded at P16.966 million covering 4, 224 hectares.

"With its current budget resources, the DA has already addressed 192,000 hectares of irrigated rice lands previously hit by the El Niño of 1997 to 1998, which are now protected from the effects of the El Niño this October," Ordoñez said.

"Budget resources are being provided to address the remaining 70,000 vulnerable irrigated hectares from the El Niño occurrence," he added.

Ordoñez said the DA has earmarked some P5 billion to mitigate the effects of El Niño for this year alone, while more resources are being mobilized for the program.

He said the existing dry spell reported in several provinces would last only a few months as the rains will soon come.

Weather experts said the rainy season was expected to set in the first week of June, while the El Niño was forecast to be felt in the middle of the year up to early 2003.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, May 21, 2002
7th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: James 4:1-10
Gospel: Mk 9:30-37

Jesus and his disciples made their way through Galilee; but Jesus did not want people to know where he was because he was teaching his disciples. And he told them, "The Son of Man will be delivered into human hands. They will kill him, but three days after he has been killed, he will rise." The disciples, however, did not understand these words and they were afraid to ask him what he meant.

They came to Capernaum and, once inside the house, Jesus asked them, "What were you discussing on the way?" But they did not answer because they had been arguing about who was the greatest.

Then he sat down, called the Twelve and said to them, "If someone wants to be first, let him be last of all and servant of all." Then he took a little child, placed it in their midst, and putting his arms around it he said to them, "Whoever welcomes a child such as this in my name, welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me, welcomes not me but the One who sent me."

Commentary

Jesus was speaking of his passion and death, the ultimate human failure, but his disciples did not understand and preferred not to question and know; they would rather argue about who the greatest was. Human ambition! How easily this penetrates all our human relationships. At times we call it "jealousy," "envy." Many times ambition becomes injustice. Jesus failed to eradicate ambition from those disciples who lived with him for three years. The Spirit has also failed to eradicate ambition from the Church, where personal ambition and hunger for higher position are still the source of intrigues, falsehood, undeserved treatment for some and denial of qualities and talents in others. Let us keep our ambition under control, otherwise we will make those who live with us suffer of injustice. We need honesty to unmask our ambition.

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INQUIRER

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OPINION

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Language advantage

EDITORIAL

IN THE NOT so distant past, Filipinos were envied in Asia for their proficiency in the English language. Filipinos were invariably chosen presiding officers or rapporteurs at international conferences in Asia. Filipinos were No. 1 on the recruitment list for overseas jobs that required a good knowledge of English.

Soon, this may no longer be true. Our Asian neighbors have realized the value of English as an international language of business, science and technology and communication, and are working double time to gain proficiency in it. Thousands are enrolling in English language schools in Shanghai, Hong Kong, Singapore, Bangkok and Tokyo, all eager to learn the language in the shortest possible time.

Time and circumstance are working against the Philippines. The country, which used to be second only to Japan in economic development after World War II, has been overtaken economically by many of its Asian neighbors. Right now, Filipinos still take some comfort in the thought that Bangladesh and Vietnam are behind the Philippines in economic development. But not for long. At the rate they're going, the Vietnamese may soon enjoy a higher rate of economic development than the Filipinos.

And now, we stand to lose our language advantage—our superiority in the use of English. One factor that has been blamed for the deterioration of the English of Filipinos is what has been called the "schizophrenic" bilingual education policy of the school system. Some subjects are taught in Filipino and some in English. Almost equal emphasis is given to the teaching of Filipino and English, or if there is bias, that bias is in favor of Filipino.

Studies have shown that the content of a school subject is understood more quickly, assimilated more easily and retained much longer when it is taught in the native language than when it is taught in a foreign language. But there may be courses like science and mathematics or information technology that are better taught in English. And the use of Filipino as the medium of instruction in most subjects should not be promoted at the expense of the teaching of English as a second language.

Up to the '50s and '60s, English was taught well in the public and private schools. In some schools, students were fined if they were caught speaking any language other than English. It may not have been exactly a nationalistic rule, but it made the students speak the language daily.

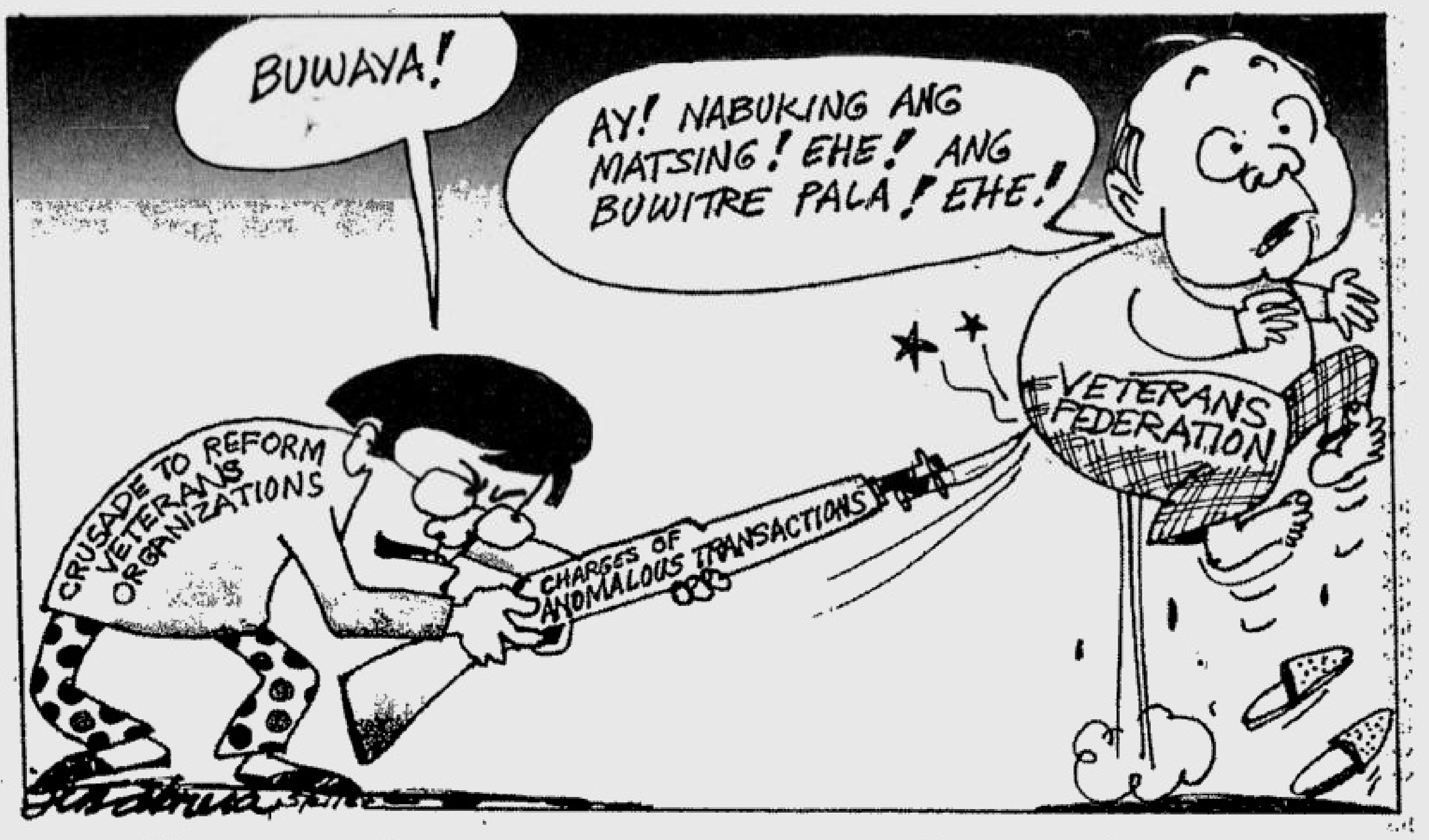
Every day there were grammar quizzes. Students learned syntax and grammar by being made to diagram sentences. And they were made to read, read and read some more. Teachers devoted a lot of time to composition in English, and students were made to rewrite their "themes" until they were almost letter perfect. Thus, most students became proficient in grammatical, Standard English. (Perhaps something like this old teaching regimen should be adopted in today's schools.)

Now this is no longer the case. Even the English of some graduates of the University of the Philippines leaves a lot to be desired. And if many teachers in public schools cannot write or speak correct English, what are they passing on to their students?

It is well that the restructured Basic Education Curriculum to be followed by the Department of Education beginning this school year is designed to help every learner, particularly in Grades 1 to 3, become a "successful reader." English and Filipino will be among the basic "tool subjects."

To be able to accomplish the purposes of its new curriculum, the department will have to hire excellent teachers of English, of a caliber that should approximate that of the teachers in the pre-war period and the '50s and '60s. We do not know how the government can lure the good teachers away from overseas jobs that offer bigger salaries and opportunities, but something has to be done to arrest the deterioration in the teaching of English.

A native language expresses best the thoughts, the aspirations, the soul of a people. But like all other people on earth, we have to wake up to the reality that English has become the global lingua franca. It has become the leading medium for the transmission of information and knowledge and for the conduct of business and communication. It is now the language of socio-economic mobility and educational and professional advancement. This being the case, we have to be proficient in it to stay in touch with the rest of the world, and to be globally competitive. We cannot afford to lose now our language advantage.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CHARGES OF ANOMALOUS TRANSACTIONS
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Difference between a coup and people power

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

FORMER Senate President Jovito Salonga, principal author of the Anti-Coup D'état Law (RA 6968) sent me a statement that showed very clearly why the coup charge against Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and top generals is doomed to fail. Salonga explained the difference between a coup d'état and "people power."

A coup d'état, as distinguished from people power, Salonga said, "is a sudden, swift attack, planned in secret, and led by government insiders, usually the military and/or the police, who make use of their weapons supplied to them by the government which they aim to topple. It is planned clandestinely to achieve the end sought—the collapse of the government at the shortest possible time, preferably within one or two days, and the formation of a new government. Hence, the previous consent of the people is not sought by the leaders of the coup. Popular consent would in fact prevent or impede success of a coup."

RA 6968, which amended Article 134 of the Revised Penal Code, defines coup d'état as "a swift attack, accompanied by violence, intimidation, threat, strategy, or stealth, directed against duly constituted authorities of the Republic…by any person or persons, belonging to the military or police or holding any public office or employment, with or without civilian support, for the purpose of seizing or diminishing state power."

There is no such thing as a "peaceful coup," Salonga said. "A coup pre-supposes the use of force, violence and intimidation." People Power II is a world away from coup d'état, he said. It was non-violent and relied on the power of persuasion instead of threats.

The distinctions between a coup and people power, particularly People Power II, are obvious," Salonga said.

"1. A coup is hatched and planned in secret; People Power II was initiated and carried out openly.

"2. A coup is initiated and led by the military and/or the police who have the legal monopoly of the instruments of violence supplied by the very government which they aim to topple; People Power II was initiated by civilians…all of whom did not resort to violence or intimidation.

"3. A coup is a sudden, swift attack which makes full use of the element of surprise, through violence, threats or stealth, without the people's consent; it is usually over in 48 hours, more or less, with the formation of a new government (such as a junta) as the defeat of its leaders. On the other hand, People Power II gained momentum after the first three days and nights (January 16, 17 and 18, 2001) and became irreversible on January 19, when the military and the police, without any tanks or guns, joined the unarmed protesters and withdrew their support from the incumbent president (Estrada) in favor of his constitutional successor, Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

"Thus, what the military officers and their followers did in August 1987 and December 1989, under the leadership of Col. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan, was to mount a coup aimed at toppling the Aquino government. It did not succeed for lack of popular support. But People Power I in 1986, which succeeded, inspired the Velvet Revolution in Czechoslovakia, the non-violent victory of the people over the Communists in Poland, and the crumbling of the Berlin Wall in 1989, leading to the reunification of West and East Germany.

"A coup d'état should also be distinguished from rebellion or sedition. NPA insurgents and their leaders are outsiders who, by a long process of propaganda and indoctrination which they started in 1969, sow seeds of discontent among the people in the hope that the masses would support their armed struggle. They are engaged in rebellion or sedition (the latter is less serious), but not a coup d'état.

"But what former Chief of Staff General Angelo Reyes and the other high-ranking military and police officers did in the afternoon of January 19, 2001 was not a coup but the withdrawal of support from the incumbent president as a result of an informed judgment on the magnitude and intensity of the mounting outrage led by students from various colleges and universities, their professors and mentors, the educated youth, including employees from various companies and firms, representatives of the middle class, urban labor and other groups.

"As faithfully recorded by the independent media and recounted by…General Reyes himself, the judgment of high-ranking military officers, on the morning of January 19, 2001, was that the president could no longer function, much less govern the nation, taking into account the mounting demonstrations, the magnitude and intensity of the outrage, the threats from the left and the right, and the environmental factors including the sinking peso and collapse of the stock market.

"They decided that they had no other choice but withdraw their support from President Estrada and shift their support to his constitutional successor, Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. The majority of the Cabinet members appointed by Estrada, including the secretary of national defense, independently arrived at the same judgment and decided to withdraw support from President Estrada, as did the leaders of both houses of Congress.

"In other words, the military and the police did not secretly plan to topple the Estrada administration. This was not a coup d'état as defined under RA 6968, which I drafted and co-authored with 20 senators. I remember we had long discussions in the Senate. The sponsor was Sen. (Joey) Lina. I presided over the proceedings. It was, if I recall correctly, approved unanimously, including the affirmative votes of Senators Estrada and (Juan Ponce) Enrile."

No way, GMA

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I REMEMBER that a couple of weeks back, Dodie Limcaoco defended the propaganda materials that had been coming out on President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo by saying they were not costing government a centavo. The posters, billboards and advertisements showing GMA cares were not being funded by government money, he said, they were being funded by private money. The President had no end of friends and admirers in the private sector. They were the ones who were footing the bill.

My first reaction when I read that was horror. That defense is worse than the offense. It is like defending one's rudeness at a party by saying that one was drunk at the time. Who says one has to drink himself silly in the first place? The same principle applies here. Limcaoco may think that the fact that private individuals or groups are financing Ms Macapagal's propagandizing justifies, or exonerates, that propagandizing. In fact, it indicts it.

Better if government had just spent for it. Costly as it is, it would be less costly in the end. For clearly, this is not benefaction, this is investment. Investment in what is equally clearly Ms Macapagal's very early campaign for another term in 2004. The people who are putting money out for this are not doing this out of the goodness of their hearts. They are doing this with a view to profiting from a particular venture.

That should raise more fears about it than if it were funded by public funds. That was what happened during Erap's time. Erap too had no end of friends and admirers in the private sector—chief of them Lucio Tan, and it would be interesting to see if he has money put out on Ms Macapagal at this time—who were tripping all over each other trying get ahead of the line to back a sure bet. All of whom recouped their investment a hundred times over, chief of them Tan.

The only difference in this case is that Ms Macapagal is not a sure bet. Well, there's another difference, which is that Erap managed to keep at least some friends and admirers after he fell. It would be interesting to see as well how many friends and admirers Ms Macapagal will keep if—or when?—she loses.

I remembered this after I saw the even more patent signs of frenetic campaigning by the current President over the last couple of weeks. She has been consolidating support from various parties and organizations and has been making the rounds of the urban poor communities, distributing goodies and posing with impoverished kids while the cameras click. One appeal Ms Macapagal may no longer issue in her next State of the Nation Address, or any other occasion that calls for her to make policy statements, is for everyone to stop being obsessed with politics—or more specifically, with elections—and buckle down to work. That is a specter that will come back to haunt.

Ms Macapagal's recent electoral preparations pretty much declare it open season for campaigning—two years before the elections. Certainly, the opposition, a grand term to denote a not very grand assortment of characters who want to win power for themselves, will not be found lagging behind. Even now, you can see the battle lines being drawn. Example is the greatest teacher. You cannot dissuade anybody from indulging in vice when you are steeped in it yourself.

I did say when Raul Concepcion and other pillars of the business community raised that appeal for everyone to stop politicking and think of the country first during the economic summit some months ago that they should address it first of all to the President. She was the one who was most guilty of it. And this was before she released an ad on TV showing her to be the "Ina ng Bayan," put her face on a P200 bill, and had billboards and posters sprouting all over the country proclaiming to the world she cared.

When I first suggested that Ms Macapagal do the heroic thing and sacrifice her personal ambitions for the good of the country—which she was begging the rest of the world to do—some people wrote me to say that it was unfair. This was so, they said, because it prevented a perfectly qualified President from remaining so.

Not at all. You reckon fairness and unfairness only in relation to the country. What is fair to the country is to have a respite from political partisanship, particularly after so heroic an event as Edsa, which clearly cannot happen if you have a President who will devote her energies to running again. A President like that cannot unite the country. That is unfair for the country, and the people who sacrificed much to bring that President to power. That Ms Macapagal has succumbed to the temptation of campaigning on this epic scale this early makes that proposition more valid than ever.

Frankly, I do not know why the pillars of the business community, Jaime Cardinal Sin and Cory Aquino have not used their moral suasion to dissuade the President they helped put in power from running again. The consequences of it are plain to see. Over the next two years, this country will grind to a halt as everyone will be frenetically campaigning for 2004. Policies, and criticisms of those policies, will not be dictated by what is good for the country but by what improves the chances of presidential hopefuls. And if Limcaoco's suggestions are anything to go by, the economic elite itself will be busy investing in the future President of this country, with a view to profiting from it afterwards. *"Bayan muna bago pulitika"* is the slogan that appears in ads on TV. It's good advice, which the President herself ought to take.

All the way with GMA?

No way, GMA.

Time to close ranks

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

PRESIDENT Macapagal is well within her rights to ask the military to close ranks behind the new chief of staff, Gen. Roy Cimatu, now that he has been chosen over other aspirants. Such is the culture of the military that they obey their commander in chief when a decision is made. Some officers may have ideas about who's a better candidate for the top post, but once the commander in chief has spoken, then that's it, or should be it. While the extension of General Cimatu's term may not sit well with some people in the military, still, the fact that an extension of that office is allowed by the Constitution means it is within the purview of the President to do so. That should stop all arguments. What is now evident is that the military welfare of the country is in the hands of PMA's class '70, to whom the AFP chief, the Army commander, Lt. Gen. Dionisio Santiago, and the Southern Command chief, Lt. Gen. Ernesto Carolina, all belong. *Masyadong malakas ang* lobbying *ng* Class '70.

* * *

Most of us take for granted our household helpers, but few of us realize how much of a boon they are not only to our lives but our economy as well. During our recent media dialogue with leaders of the electronics industry, it was pointed out that many of the 715 firms here operate on three shifts daily, something that cannot be done anywhere else in the world. This is attributable to the househelp who look after the workers' families and the extended family system in this country. In a way these advantages add to the Filipino human resources so highly prized by the industry leaders.

Bing Viera, the GM of the Baguio-based Texas Instruments, which manufactures the software components for Nokia, Ericsson and Siemens cellular phones, likes to tell people about how his company was written off by the mother company in the US after the killer earthquake of July1991. Viera recalls calling his people and telling them, "If we don't put up that factory again, you and I would have no jobs." One thousand five hundred workers out of the 1,800 work force responded, and getting all the firehoses from Manila and Baguio they improvised the supply of water and put up generators; and by August the Baguio plant was shipping orders worldwide. The US officials couldn't believe it.

* * *

The local US$22-billion electronics industry showed far more resilience last year than the US$1-trillion global electronics industry (20 percent decline here vs. 35 percent worldwide last year); it is also heartwarming to know that for the last two quarters, revenues from Asia overtook those of the US, as companies like Toshiba closed their US manufacturing and went to Asia. The Philippines has become the disk drive manufacturing center of Japanese electronic companies. But obviously our local industry can improve some more, and the companies are leading the way. Philips GM George Bobin, who will soon be replaced by Filipina GM Melba Cuyahon, spoke about the Asian Institute of Management fashioning a special business management program for top Philips executives, and a middle management course for the second level; for its operators, Philips has coordinated with two schools in Laguna for science courses, beginning with teaching the teachers. On the other hand, Intel Philippines GM Robin Martin pointed out that his firm will soon start the latest technology of Intel worldwide here, and that at any one time some 70-80 Filipino engineers are training in the US in technology development.

* * *

As Martin pointed out, the semiconductor industry pays much, much higher than other industries, and doubtless this is the lead motivation for the workers in this industry that prizes a culture of precision, to turn out zero-defect products. Working in a clean, modern environment with good pay and all the fringe benefits, the Filipino workers are motivated to internalize the discipline required of multinational workers, such as arriving and departing on schedule, and relaxing only at break time. Listening to the industry leaders describe their workers, we media people found it hard to connect them with those in other industries, who are often criticized for their low productivity, as well as with government workers. The comparison is inevitable and it's obvious that the electronics workers and those in other multinationals have evolved a sub-culture quite apart from the rest of the nation. The question is, how does one motivate the other type of workers and the bureaucrats to do better? The answer: better pay and work environment and proper enforcement of rules and regulations.

* * *

Former PCGG Chief Felix M. De Guzman, who chaired the sequestration body in former President Estrada's time, took exception to the impression of the first PCGG chair, former Sen. Jovito Salonga, that he was "not adversarial" during his term and that he preferred to forge a compromise agreement with the Marcoses in the hope of abbreviating the sequestration proceedings against them. De Guzman strongly denied conceiving of such a course of action or taking a premature stand toward a settlement of the Marcos cases. In fact, he said that upon learning that all the Marcos cases had not been disposed of, except one through a compromise agreement entered into by his predecessor, he immediately ordered the reorganization of the PCGG's legal department by adding more lawyers drawn from various offices. He also stressed that he wrote to the Philippine Ambassador to Switzerland and the Ministry of Justice and Police of Switzerland in August 1998, requesting assistance for the disclosure/freezing of bank accounts of all Marcos-related deposits there just before his sudden relief from his post. "My stint with the PCGG was only a little over three months, and because of this time-constraint in view of my sudden relief, I did not have the opportunity to pursue any proposed settlement," said De Guzman.

Morals of GMA appointees

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

VERY early in her term, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo made much of a set of criteria issued to the "search committee," then evaluating candidates for the Cabinet and lesser posts, that, she said, would set apart her "official family" from that of Erap's. Not just in terms of competence or brainpower, but even in terms of personal morals and behavior.

If I remember right, the guidelines went far beyond generalities about a potential appointee's moral fitness. The provision on "moral uprightness" specifically required that the candidate not have more than one family, which I took as a direct dig at President Macapagal's predecessor.

Well, what a difference a year and a half makes! About two months ago, the President, presumably at the suggestion of Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, appointed Simon "Mon" Paterno as president and CEO of the Development Bank of the Philippines. There's no question about Paterno's qualifications for the post, nor his experience in the world of banking. But moral fitness?

In a letter to Camacho, Paterno's wife, Dina Lomongo Paterno, who worked very briefly as Ms Macapagal's social secretary, wrote that in appointing people to important posts in the executive department, "I would like to believe that integrity and sound moral fibre would be just as important to the rare, honorable few who dare to serve their country despite the significant odds."

So what did Dina mean?

* * *

DINA and Mon remain married to each other (they have three young daughters), but the marriage has been on the rocks for some time. In fact, Mon has filed for a declaration of nullity that Dina opposes.

"While this should clearly be a private matter between us," Dina says in her letter to Camacho, "the fact that he has been openly carrying on an illicit relationship with a married woman and a court case he had filed is ongoing with no indication of being resolved anytime soon may have a bearing on his recent appointment as a public official."

Before marrying Mon Paterno, Dina was a foreign service officer, but her career in diplomacy was eventually derailed after she joined Mon in New York and then moved with him to Hong Kong as he pursued his career in investment banking with J.P. Morgan. In Hong Kong, Dina taught at the International School while pursuing civic pursuits, such as the Bayanihan Center Foundation, helping raise funds and plan programs for the Center that now serves the large Filipino community of Hong Kong.

"He was always away," Dina recalls of life with Mon in Hong Kong.

Because of his regional responsibilities, Mon would be away practically three weeks each month, making an appearance on weekends, most of which he spent recovering from his travels. But Dina coped as best she could, realizing this was part of the "package" of being married to a high-flying investment banker. What she didn't bank on was the growing emotional distance between her husband and her, an alienation that seemed to grow worse as Mon spent longer and longer stays in Manila.

* * *

AS Dina tells it, she was pregnant and waiting to deliver their youngest child, now 4 years old, in the United States when she got confirmation that Mon had taken up with another woman, who was also married.

She confronted Mon when they returned to Hong Kong, but he claimed to be "working things out" and wasn't ready yet to call it quits. A few months later, they had just moved out of their flat and were in the process of moving into another when Mon called and said she and the children should fly down to Manila to join him. And it was while they were in Manila that Mon dropped a bombshell: He was in love with the other woman and wasn't going to go home to her and the children anymore. With one declaration, Mon Paterno pulled the rug out from under the feet not just of his wife but also of his three young girls, uprooting them from their home in Hong Kong, separating them from friends and classmates, and shattering their family.

For more than a year, says Dina, Mon didn't seem to want to do anything more about the situation. When Dina pushed for a resolution, he would fend her off, saying he didn't want to do anything "legal." But when his girlfriend got her annulment, Dina was shocked to receive a notice from the court stating that Mon had filed for a declaration of nullity.

An annulment is out of the question, for now, for Dina. What she wants instead, she says, is a legal separation, with the terms of financial settlement and child support clearly stated.

This is where the situation between the Paternos now stands. By refusing to meet Dina's demands even halfway, Mon Paterno now finds himself technically maintaining two families, or two relationships. Does he still measure up to the Macapagal administration's high moral standards?

* * *

E-MAIL notice. All the e-mail that comes through my rjdavid@inquirer.com.ph address passes through a mail administrator. Lately, I've noticed that the administrator has been deleting an average of five messages a day for one reason or the other, most commonly because the message contained a virus. I can't imagine why anyone would take the time to try to mess up our site by sending pesky viruses, but as you can see, it's a futile effort, so cease and desist!

Some correspondents also insist on sending me messages with attachments. As a matter of policy, unless I know you personally or you told me about it beforehand, I delete all messages with attachments, due to sad experiences in the past. So cut-and-paste, guys, cut-and-paste!

Dancing with dolphins

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L.Harper

STRICTLY speaking you're not even supposed to swim with them and if you did you're cautioned not to touch them or chase them. The idea being that the sea is their habitat and we are merely visitors so that we must try to be as non-invasive as possible. So if you do its purely in spirit. Off the coast of Bais, between Dumaguete and Cebu are the Tañon Straits where schools of dolphins congregate and it's a special treat to be able to see these playful mammals. Even before the watchers in the banca shout, "dolphins!" You can feel them all around you. Their presence is palpable before you begin to see what looks like dozens of them forming a circle around the boat. "Dolphin, dolphin..." the watchers call and clap their hands and these gentle playful creatures oblige by jumping from the water's surface and swim swiftly under the prow of the banca again and again to the delight of the humans.

(Different NGOs have set up programs to do research on dolphins specifically in the Bahamas and Japan. One wishes there were programs here so that these highly intelligent creatures wouldn't end dead and cut up in some beach, dynamited or poisoned by cyanide or caught in the nets of big-time commercial trawlers.

Several educational modules are available to teach school groups about dolphins and ocean conservation but despite the depleted seabeds of Pangasinan, the destruction of our coral reefs and mangroves, we have yet to see anything on the government TV stations. Surely the destruction of our natural environment is evidence of the need to develop a sense of respect for nature and environment preservation and protection).

There's a sandbar out in the sea in the straits of Tañon between Dumaguete and Cebu where the municipality has built three houses on stilts of nipa and bamboo with a bathroom and a kitchen area. All three are usually occupied in the summer and apparently are much in demand. The huts can house perhaps a dozen people and if your party wishes to stay overnight, a generator is brought over.

It was high tide when we arrived and lunch was being prepared. I usually swear by the seafood from Capiz but Dumaguete should rank right up there. We had these gorgeous crabs (with lots of fat), huge prawns, the enormous lower jaw of an unfortunate tuna and rice wrapped in banana leaves—lots of it. While I grabbed for my *alimasag* I mentally told myself I'd defer my yearly check-up until I could subsist on salads for a week before seeing the doctor. A dish that you'll love was sautéed shrimps in coconut milk with thin slivers of young coconut meat and the leaves of the malunggay.

It was amazing to see the tide recede and the sand begin to appear in what seemed like the blink of an eye. When we first arrived our feet couldn't touch bottom and tiny little fish with yellow and black stripes swam about the concrete pillars of the hut but after two hours the water was only waist deep and shortly afterwards we were walking on the sand admiring the star fish and picking sea shells. All around from the other huts we could see people descending and walking around. There's a feeling of timelessness out there for as Filipinos we have a natural affinity to the sea. It's difficult for us to realize that there are actually people in the world who have never seen the ocean.

On our way back to the farmhouse I stopped by a market not necessarily to buy anything but to see what there was to see. This is one of the most entertaining things you can do when you arrive in one of our provincial towns. Ilocos Norte market for instance has a fantastic variety of sea weed that I didn't even know existed but aren't served in any of their restaurants. Now the Bais market had these huge squids measuring some two or more feet in length that I'm told swim with the dolphins. Just one of them *adobado* should feed a truckload of hungry people—they're that big. There was a nut that is served with your *kinilaw* that is *mapakla* though I forgot to ask (we had a language barrier; I don't speak Cebuano and they didn't speak Tagalog; once upon a time we could have gotten along in English but not any more) what it does.

There were also a couple of strange greens bound together that included sprigs of *Malunggay* that you boil with fish but again the names were foreign as well. If you like sea food you will love their market with lovely clams as big as the palm of your hand, the usual fresh fish—only half the price of Manila and the ubiquitous sea weed with the taste and smell of the sea still clinging to it that I couldn't resist but no one else wanted to eat that evening.

Three of us were guests of my friend Paz who feels that a farm experience is as valid as baking in the sand at some of our more numerous beaches and resorts. She believes the "Home-stay" program of tourism should include farm stays and if the stories of Cebuano friends of their visits to Bais are any indication, it's a completely untapped market out there. Dumaguete hospitality as in most of our South is unrivalled. The only problem is they keep feeding you and then when you arrive at the airport for your return trip you look like *balikbayans* with cartons and cartons of sausages, rice cakes and cookies not to mention my *siniguelas*, clothes that don't fit due to those extra 10 pounds that furthermore camouflage any interesting cheek bones you might have had—once.

Life questions

YOUNGBLOOD

Doreen S. Marabillon

*We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.***

I CANNOT sleep. I would like to dream about Russell Crowe, but my eyes cannot seem to close. I am too busy trying to answer all the pressing life questions that have been tormenting me for the last decade or so.

I am not attempting to answer philosophical questions (Why am I here? What is my reason for living?) or political questions (Is Gloria Macapagal a good president? Will our country get rid of the *"trapos"* and corrupt officials? Can pigs fly?) Looking for the meaning behind my existence can be argued in Philosophy class oral exams or night drinking sessions. Pondering on the finer points of the government can be discussed with angst-ridden, unemployed friends. The questions that are keeping me awake are more personal, specific and perhaps even mundane for others.

Questions like, why does my relationship with my best friend last? Christine and I have been friends for 15 years, and amid prolonged absences and lack of communication, our bonds of friendship never break or fade. I do not even consider myself a good friend. I forget birthdays, divulge secrets and hate surprises.

While I'm on the subject of friendship, also on my list is the question of why my girlfriends cannot go along well with my boyfriends and vice-versa. I do not mean boyfriends in the romantic sense but friends who are boys. It can get frustrating at times, because I constantly have to divide myself between these sets of friends. It is fun to have slumber parties with the girls, but it is also fun to watch a Bruce Willis flick with the boys. I have attempted to bring them all together in one place, but every effort ended in disaster. The boys hate the shrieks and the girls hate the rough, sexist talk.

When it comes to talent, why do I have everything half-baked? I can only play the piano with my right hand. My left hand freezes every time my fingers touch the keys. Yes, I can paint. But I can only paint landscapes. Landscapes are wonderful to do, but they can get monotonous because they are all the same—trees, flowers and shrubs. I want to do portraits, but I cannot go beyond the eyebrows. Do not even ask me about my culinary skills. I do not have any cooking talents to boast of. My everyday meals consist of instant noodles and fast food.

I also ask, why do the people I know seem to have clear ideas about what to do with their lives? I am taking my master's degree because I feel that I still have a lot to learn, not because of other worthy reasons. Others are taking their graduate courses because they want to be teachers or to travel abroad. My only ambition in life is to have three kids. I want a little girl with pouting lips and jet-black ringlets, a little boy who will grow up to become a basketball player, and another boy who will be a cardiologist. With all my worries, I think I will need someone who can take care of my soon-to-be ailing heart.

Here are some more of my mind-boggling questions. Why do I hate math? My hate relationship with mathematics goes back to second grade when my father forced me to memorize the multiplication table. I remember crying so hard, with my head throbbing from exhaustion, but still trying to get the product of seven times eight. I hate math with so much passion that my mind goes blank every time I see or hear numbers.

Why do ridiculous things happen to me in public? I once tripped on a sidewalk along Ayala Avenue, with my legs and arms flying for all the people to see. I once convinced an Economics student that I got an A in Basic Economics, not knowing that one of his friends was my former teacher (who gave me a C+). In short, I became the butt of jokes in my *"tambayan"* for being a wannabe.

My life is literally peppered with lots of clumsiness and smooth moves gone haywire. But I still wonder why my friendships last, why I am always in a cheerful mood and why that Economics student has now been my boyfriend for three years. No one bothers to tell me. Amid all those sleepless nights deciphering probable answers, I realize that I want to go on living my unpredictable life, without changing anything. Maybe the answer is as simple as being true to myself and to the people around me. Maybe there really is no answer at all.

Doreen S. Marabillon, 23, is taking up her MA in Communication Arts at the Ateneo de Manila University.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO . . . ?

Congress slapping incident

ON NOV. 13, 2000, then San Juan Rep. Jose Mari Gonzalez slapped House sergeant-at-arms Bayani Fabic in the face at the House Session Hall at the Batasan complex, Quezon City. This happened during the commotion that rocked the House of Representatives when then Speaker Manny Villar transmitted the Articles of Impeachment against former President Joseph Estrada to the Senate. (PDI, 11/14/00)

The House ethics committee decided to reprimand him last Jan. 10 with 16 members present. Six committee members who were not in favor of the penalty walked out of the closed-door session. They said it was in protest after their peers broke a "gentleman's agreement" to have him expelled. Seven were in favor of the reprimand while three abstained.

Fabic, a retired Army general, filed a complaint with the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office. Gonzalez, however, failed to appear and submit his counter-affidavit despite due notice. Assistant City Prosecutor Ronald Ancheta said Fabic had not done anything wrong to provoke Gonzalez into hitting him. Thus, a criminal case for grave slander by deed was filed with the city's Metropolitan Trial Court on April 23, 2001. The case was raffled off to the sala of Judge Cesar Untalan of Branch 39.

On May 17, the court issued a warrant for Gonzalez's arrest. He was arrested a week after but was subsequently released after paying the recommended bail of P6,000 on the same day.

Gonzalez filed a motion to quash last July 26. He argued that the criminal information does not conform substantially to the prescribed form. But on Aug. 6, the court denied the motion for utter lack of merit.

The former lawmaker pleaded not guilty when arraigned on Aug. 28.

Case status: The pre-trial is set on Oct. 16, 2002.

Armin P. Adina, PDI Research Department

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Amend ourselves not the Constitution

LETTERS

THIS refers to your editorial of May 5, 2002 titled "Angara's agenda."

The main problem of many politicians like Sen. Edgardo Angara is that they plan to fail.

Where was Angara when former President Joseph Estrada was committing plunder? Did he condemn Estrada?

And he knew that Estrada was incompetent. Why did he decide to run as his vice president?

I think that Angara will never become president of the Philippines because he supported Estrada. And, up to now, he has not denounced him.

The political summit at the Manila Hotel was a waste of time and money because President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and the other politicians failed to discuss important things like pollution, unemployment, education, peace and order. Unless these problems are immediately solved, they have no business discussing amending the Constitution. Instead, they should amend themselves and change for the better by providing exemplary and honest leadership.

—OSCAR R. LANDICHO,
orlandicho@hotmail.com

Hybrid rice program is still being validated

I AM writing to clarity impressions that may have been unduly formed from the letter of Robert Versola, secretary general, Philippine Greens, last May 16. At the outset, let me state that the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) remains committed to the rice program of the Department of Agriculture. In fact, it is ATI that has a team that has been conducting technical briefings on the Hybrid Rice Program for the last two months and these remain a continuous and ongoing activity for us.

As the training arm for the agriculture department, we try to encourage and promote an environment for a free and rigorous change of ideas. The System of Rice Intensification was received in such a spirit through our lecture series forum where the main proponent of the SRI, Dr. Norman Uphoff, a Cornell University professor, made his initial presentation before a group of researchers, farm practitioners and LGU representatives on April 12. As a complementary validation measure, we are doing field-testing of the SRI in a few training centers.

—EDWIN P. ACOBA, director, Agricultural Training Institute,
Department of Agriculture

Do Filipinos in Austria want envoy out?

PLEASE be informed that almost every member of the Filipino/Austrian community here is closely monitoring your every issue hoping that there will still be a follow-up on this case either by the INQUIRER or Ramon Tulfo. I also learned that several other members of the community have sent their response to the statements of Ambassador Victor Garcia published in your paper last April 13 and 16. Many of us here have coordinated with the community leaders involved in the move seeking Garcia's immediate recall and replacement. They informed us that copies of documents substantiating all complaints against the ambassador have already been forwarded to you. Therefore, we ask you to please extend to us whatever help or assistance you can give in the best interest of your "*kababayans*" here in Austria. The situation here is fast eroding and there seems to be nowhere else we can turn.

—TINA BARRERA, Air France, Vienna,
Kärtnerstrasse, A-1010

Summer's flowers

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

AS early as March we fretted about the approaching scorching summer. April usually confirms our suspicions as temperatures soar and by May, we wonder if this might not have been the worst summer ever, a protracted Lenten season.

But the month of May does have its bright side, occasional drizzles and thunderstorms reminding us relief from the heat might not be too far off. It helps, too, that this is the month of fiestas and of flowers.

Summer flowers are a peculiarity of tropical environments. One would expect plants dying in this heat, yet we find a profusion of flowers. Our summers remind us of how nature works. For day-to-day survival, plants mainly need water and nutrients from the soil but to flower and to fruit—processes crucial to a plant's reproduction—plants need a delicate balance between light and dark. Too much or too little of one and the flowers may never appear.

In temperate countries, the seasons mean wide differences in the hours of sunlight. You can have summers with up to 16 hours of daylight and winters with only 5. The differences in daylight hours are not as drastic in a tropical environment—in the Philippines our shortest days are about 11 hours around December while during the summer, we get almost 13 hours. The difference is small but crucial in determining which plants flower.

Many of our plants bloom all year round but there's something about those that appear in the summer: flowers are more abundant and colors more vivid. There are other surprises, the *sampaguita*, for example, yielding a double-flowered variety only in May, almost as if to help summer's lovers with their whispered pledges of fidelity, "*Sumpa kita.*"

Look around and you'll see more of these differences. The hardy bougainvillea begins to bloom around October but it is during summer when it flowers more vigorously, red and purple and white and pink as well as variegated combinations climbing up and bouncing off walls and hedges, yes, you can tell the kids, like Spiderman.

(A quick appeal to civic sense: the bougainvillea are pretty but their thorns can be "deadly," so make sure you keep them trimmed. I've seen bougainvillea bushes growing out of the sidewalks and endangering passers-by, especially children.)

Some of these summer plants are actually dull and drab without their flowers. My parents' garden has these plants that just sit along a fence through most of the year, looking rather scraggly. As the summer heats up, they look almost pitiful, their leaves sadly drooping, some even dying. Then around April you find little buds hinting a surprise. One morning you'll find the buds have opened up together, almost on cue. These are bright orange lilios—cousins of lilies—that flower a pair on each stalk. They last several days but even before they wilt, there will be other buds sprouting and waiting their turn.

Summer's flowers come from the sturdiest plants. The orange lirio, the many varieties of *gumamela* (or, if you want to be colonial, hibiscus), birds of paradise, bandera espanola—all of these do well in the most unlikely places: a crevice in the wall, cracks in the pavement, between stones around garbage dumps. Many of them flower during different parts of the year but seem to try harder during the summer, conspiring to organize the year's riot of colors.

Don't stop with what you can see at eye level. Look up and you'll find nature crowns and drapes many of our trees during the summer, especially those belonging to the legume family.

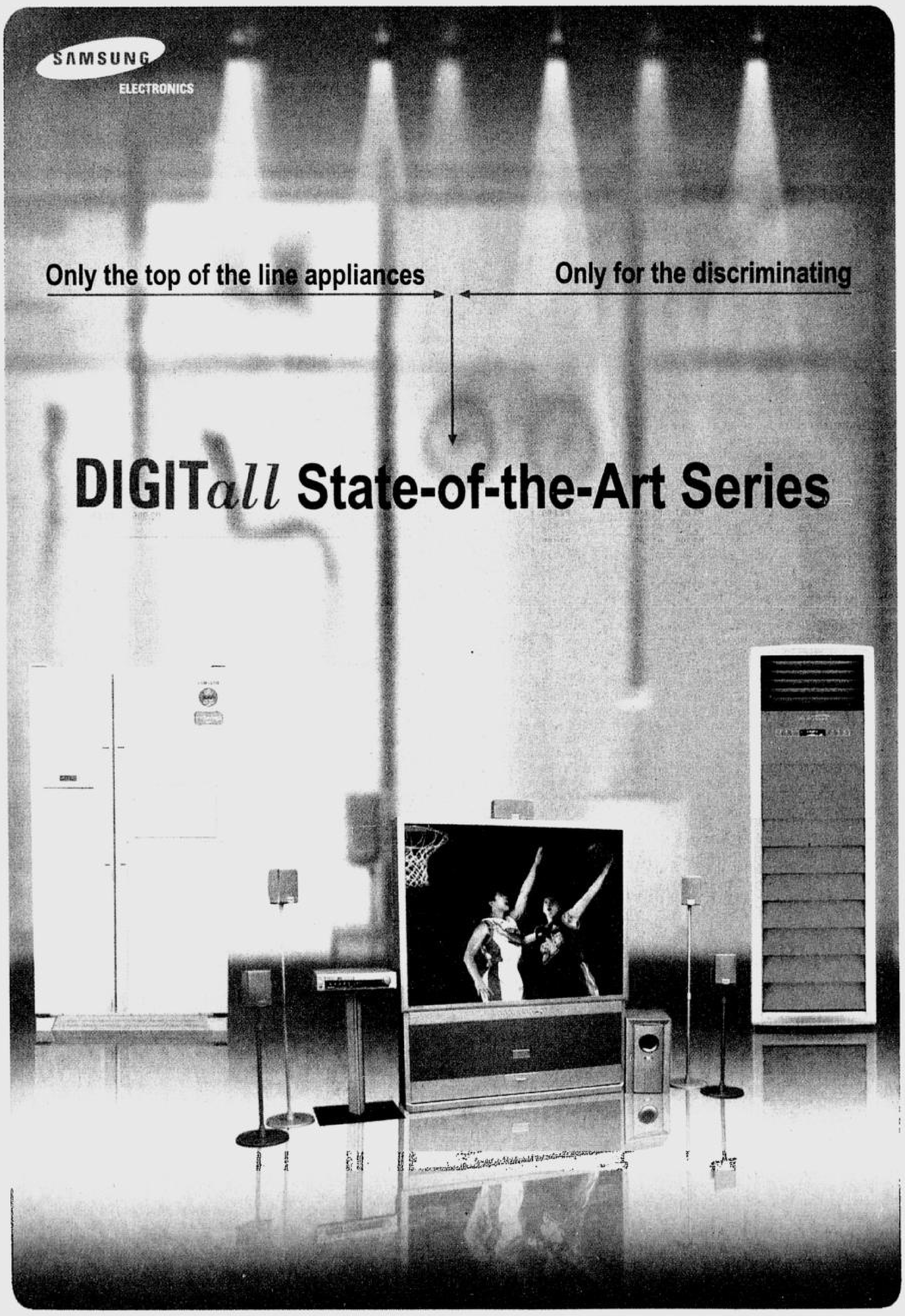
The most impressive are the fire trees, so striking they've been given many other names: *arbol del fuego*, *caballero*, flamboyant tree. Like the flamboyant Pinoy caballero, these trees love colors, their flowers coming in scarlet and crimson (there's a difference between the two) as well as oranges and yellows. These trees take on many moods, fiery and mildly angry against the backdrop of sunsets but rather soothing during the rest of the day, their reds and oranges blending quietly with a sea of green from other trees.

Summer prods a cousin of the fire tree—tropical golden shower—to bloom as well, the tree's name taken from its gracefully cascading flowers. More muted and gentle are the purple *banaba*. And if you look hard, you'll find other leguminous trees with small flowers—for example, yellow for *sampalok* and pink for acacia—looking almost as if they were painted in by an impressionist artist playing with dots and points.

Our flowers of May remind us about ourselves, offering lessons for living. First, we learn to appreciate the grandeur that comes with simplicity. Even roadside plants, some that we might even discard as weeds, will in fact yield the most striking flowers. A solitary flowering plant has its own simple beauty, but when several bloom together, the colors come through almost like a grand symphony. Oh, but doesn't that remind you, too, of the Pinoy, who is at his or her best (and sometimes, worst) when in a group.

Second, like our flowers, we can bloom in the most difficult of times and in the most unlikely places. I don't want to reinforce the idea that we excel in times of adversity because it's used too often to justify a neglect of the poor: "Oh don't worry, they'll survive." No, there's another message coming from the flores de Mayo. Summer's flowers bloom not in spite of but because the soil is parched and the heat oppressive, and because of a crucial play between light and darkness.

Humans are that way too. Sometimes we need a hot house to thrive, constantly challenged by new ideas, new people. And like summer's flowers, we need more than token love and care a few extra minutes spelling the difference between duty and nurturance. When darkness descends into our lives, allowing us to rest and to reflect, that extra warmth lingers, preparing us to greet each new dawn, blooming with generous vengeance.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Ferry with 1,293 on board catches fire; no one hurt

A TWO-MINUTE fire broke out in a Manila-bound ship carrying more than 1,200 passengers yesterday morning off Nasugbu, Batangas.

The blaze occurred at the main deck-pantail section of the MV Our Lady of Medjugorje, owned by the WG&A shipping line, said Commander Juancho Marano, of the Philippine Coast Guard action center in Manila.

The fire started when the acetylene hose of a wielding machine leaked, Marano added.

Luckily, no one was hurt after the crew put it out two minutes. It started around 10:14 a.m. yesterday.

Marano said the ship left Puerto Princesa around 9 p.m. Sunday with 1,293 people on board.

The fire happened while the ship was cruising some four nautical miles off Nasugbu, Batangas.

Sparks allegedly flew out of the acetylene hose and landed on a foam, which caught fire.

While the ship's crew tried to put out the blaze, the passengers put on their life vests, Marano said.

But fire was extinguished quickly and the life rafts were not deployed, Marano added.

"No one was hurt. The fire was contained and put out immediately," he said.

The ship arrived safely in Manila at around 1:30 p.m.

Marano said the Coast Guard is now questioning ship captain Greg Sason and his crew.

He added that the authorities want to know if the crew used the wielding machine while the ship was at sea.

Imee hails raps versus Owwa head

ILOCOS Norte Rep. Imee Marcos yesterday hailed Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas for filing charges against the head of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration for alleged misuse of the agency funds.

This as she filed House resolution No. 483 urging the House to investigate the collection, management, distribution and use of the funds following allegations of fund misuse and the "staggering annual collection of funds, ranging from P600 million to P800 million."

In a statement, Marcos said that she had requested last March copies of Owwa's financial statement because the agency has not given a complete and updated report to the public.

In the past, she said Owwa submitted a report on its funds but this consisted only a "mere one-page summary of an audited OWWA Financial Statement for the year 2000."

In her resolution, Marcos said that since 1995, overseas workers are required to pay a fee of $25 each to the Owwa funds.

This translates then to an annual collection of P600-P800 million for Owwa, she said.

Aventajado, 81

GENARO Urmenita Aventajado, former councilor of San Juan, died yesterday. He was 81. He is survived by children Peter and Malou, Robert and Tinette, Genaro Jr. "Jun" and Camille, Joven and Bebot, Mary Jane and Albert; grandchildren Lala, Mars and Det Det, Nino and Michelle, Marco, and Xandro, Catherine, Juana, David and Stephanie, Miko and Jack, James and Vivian and Michelle; and great grandchildren Gianina, Miguel and Jeremy Daniel.

His remains lie at the Capilla de San Francisco, Santuario de San Antonio Parish, McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Interment will be on Thursday at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City.

Bigay, 75

FORMER journalist Salvador P. Bigay died yesterday morning at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City after a brief illness. He was 75.

Bigay worked as a reporter, editor, columnist, publisher and business manger of various Manila newspapers for nearly 30 years.

He was the first executive director of the Overseas Employment Development Board (1974-82), which pioneered in government-to-government employment of overseas Filipino workers. He was also the first administrator of the Overseas Welfare Administration, from 1982 to 1984.

He was vice president and general manager of Nova Communications Inc., publisher of the Daily Globe and Diyario Pilipino, 1987-94; general manager of the The Observer weekly newsmagazine, 1986-87.

Bigay is survived by his wife, Leonor S. Villarica, children Rachel, Jocelyn, Salvador Jr. and Sean, four grandchildren and one great-grandson.

His body lies at the Santa Rita Parish mortuary at Philam Homes, Quezon City. The date of his burial will be announced later.

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ORIGIN: MANILA

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES			
						NORMAL	VALUE	PROMOTIONAL	2-DAY ADVANCE
CEBU	5J - 557	Daily	DC9	0130	0240	P2,899	P2,569	P2,309	P2,199
	5J - 559	Daily	B757	0500	0610			-	
	5J - 559	**Daily**	**B757***	**0500**	**0610**	P3,219	P3,019	P2,899	-
	5J - 561	Daily	DC9	0700	0810	P2,899	P2,569	-	P2,199
	5J - 563	Daily	DC9	0900	1010			-	
	5J - 565	Daily	DC9	1100	1210			-	
	5J - 567	Daily	DC9	1300	1410			-	
	5J - 569	Daily	DC9	1500	1610			-	
*Cebu Class Available	5J - 571	Daily	DC9	1700	1810			-	
DAVAO	5J - 961	Daily	DC9	0500	0640	P3,667	P3,239	-	P2,699
	5J - 963	Daily	B757	0930	1110			-	
	5J - 963	**Daily**	**B757***	**0930**	**1110**	P4,039	P3,839	P3,667	-
	5J - 965	Daily	DC9	1300	1440	P3,667	P3,239	-	P2,699
*Cebu Class Available	5J - 967	Daily	DC9	1600	1740			-	
CAGAYAN de ORO	5J - 381	Daily	DC9	0510	0635	P3,645	P3,239	-	P2,699
	5J - 383	Daily	DC9	0930	1055			-	
	5J - 385	Daily	DC9	1140	1305			-	
TACLOBAN	5J - 651	Daily	DC9	0610	0720	P2,899	P2,569	-	P2,199
	5J - 655	Daily	DC9	1210	1320			-	
	5J - 657	Daily	DC9	1410	1520			-	
ILOILO	5J - 451	Daily	DC9	0500	0600	P2,779	P2,449	-	P2,199
	5J - 453	Daily	DC9	0720	0820			-	
	5J - 455	Daily	DC9	0955	1055			-	
	5J - 459	Daily	DC9	1600	1700			-	
BACOLOD	5J - 473	Daily	DC9	0610	0710	P2,779	P2,449	-	**P2,095**
	5J - 475	Daily	DC9	1000	1100			-	
	5J - 479	Daily	DC9	1650	1750			-	
ZAMBOANGA	5J - 851	Daily	DC9	0620	0750	P3,667	P3,239	-	P2,699
ROXAS	5J - 373	Daily	DC9	0530	0630	P2,539	P2,199	-	P1,999
DUMAGUETE	5J - 627	Daily	DC9	1340	1450	P2,899	P2,569	-	P2,199
KALIBO	5J - 339	Daily	DC9	0900	0950	P2,899	P2,569	-	P2,199
	5J - 341	Daily	DC9	0950	1040			-	
BUTUAN	5J - 787	Daily	DC9	1000	1125	P3,645	P3,239	-	P2,699

ORIGIN: CEBU

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES			
						NORMAL	VALUE	PROMOTIONAL	2-DAY ADVANCE
MANILA	5J - 558	Daily	DC9	0500	0610	P2,899	P2,569	P2,309	P2,199
	5J - 560	Daily	B757	0700	0810			-	
	5J - 560	**Daily**	**B757***	**0700**	**0810**	P3,219	P3,019	P2,899	-
	5J - 562	Daily	DC9	0900	1010	P2,899	P2,569	-	P2,199
	5J - 564	Daily	DC9	1100	1210			-	
	5J - 566	Daily	DC9	1300	1410			-	
	5J - 568	Daily	DC9	1500	1610			-	
	5J - 570	Daily	DC9	1700	1810			-	
*Cebu Class Available	5J - 572	Daily	DC9	1900	2010			-	
DAVAO	5J - 593	Daily	DC9	0800	0850	P2,589	P2,249	-	P2,049
	5J - 597	Daily	DC9	1450	1540			-	
ZAMBOANGA	5J - 431	Tu/Th/Sat	DC9	1005	1100	P2,649	P2,319	-	P2,119
ILOILO	5J - 164	Daily	DC9	1750	1825	P2,099	P1,759	-	P1,599
BACOLOD	5J - 126	M/W/Th/Sat	DC9	1100	1130	P1,879	P1,539	-	P1,295
CLARK	5J - 588	Tu/F/Sun	DC9	1100	1220	P2,995	P2,669	-	P2,399

ORIGIN: DAVAO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES			
						NORMAL	VALUE	PROMOTIONAL	2-DAY ADVANCE
MANILA	5J - 962	Daily	DC9	0720	0900	P3,667	P3,239	-	P2,699
	5J - 964	Daily	B757	1210	1350			-	
	5J - 964	**Daily**	**B757***	**1210**	**1350**	P4,039	P3,839	P3,667	-
	5J - 966	Daily	DC9	1520	1700	P3,667	P3,239	-	P2,699
*Cebu Class Available	5J - 968	Daily	DC9	1820	2000			-	
CEBU	5J - 594	Daily	DC9	0930	1020	P2,589	P2,249	-	P2,049
	5J - 598	Daily	DC9	1620	1710			-	
ILOILO --via Cebu	5J - 598/164	Daily	DC9	1620	1825	P3,645	P3,195	-	P2,699
ZAMBOANGA	5J - 393	M/W/F/Sun	DC9	1010	1110	P2,649	P2,319	-	P2,199

ORIGIN: BACOLOD

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
						NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE
MANILA	5J - 474	Daily	DC9	0800	0900	P2,779	P2,449	**P2,095**
	5J - 476	Daily	DC9	1150	1250			
	5J - 480	Daily	DC9	1840	1940			
CEBU	5J - 125	M/W/Th/Sat	DC9	1220	1250	P1,879	P1,539	P1,295

NOTES:

- *All tickets are REFUNDABLE, REROUTABLE and UPGRADABLE to valid higher fare types. All issued tickets are NON-TRANSFERRABLE.*
- *Insurance surcharge of P250 per sector is applicable to all fare types.*
- *Child's fare and other regular discounts are applicable to Normal Fares only.*
- *All fares are subject to government approval and are exclusive of government tax.*
- *All fares and schedules are subject to change without prior notice.*
- ***2-Day Advance Purchase fares are subject to CAB approval and may change without prior notice.***

ORIGIN: BUTUAN

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
						NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE
MANILA	5J - 788	Daily	DC9	1205	1330	P3,645	P3,239	P2,699

ORIGIN: ILOILO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
						NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE
MANILA	5J - 454	Daily	DC9	0900	1000	P2,779	P2,449	P2,199
	5J - 456	Daily	DC9	1135	1235			
	5J - 460	Daily	DC9	1740	1840			
	5J - 462	Daily	DC9	1905	2005			
CEBU	5J - 161	Daily	DC9	0640	0715	P2,099	P1,759	P1,599
DAVAO --via Cebu	5J - 161/593	Daily	DC9	0640	0850	P3,645	P3,195	P2,699

ORIGIN: TACLOBAN

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
						NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE
MANILA	5J - 652	Daily	DC9	0800	0910	P2,899	P2,569	P2,199
	5J - 656	Daily	DC9	1400	1510			
	5J - 658	Daily	DC9	1600	1710			

ORIGIN: CLARK

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
						NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE
CEBU	5J - 589	Tu/F/Sun	DC9	1300	1420	P2,995	P2,669	P2,399

ORIGIN: ZAMBOANGA

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
						NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE
MANILA	5J - 852	Daily	DC9	1150	1320	P3,667	P3,239	P2,699
CEBU	5J - 432	Tu/Th/Sat	DC9	0830	0925	P2,649	P2,319	P2,119
DAVAO	5J - 394	M/W/F/Sun	DC9	0830	0930	P2,649	P2,319	P2,199

ORIGIN: CAGAYAN DE ORO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
						NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE
MANILA	5J - 382	Daily	DC9	0715	0840	P3,645	P3,239	P2,699
	5J - 384	Daily	DC9	1135	1300			
	5J - 386	Daily	DC9	1345	1510			

ORIGIN: ROXAS

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
						NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE
MANILA	5J - 374	Daily	DC9	0710	0810	P2,539	P2,199	P1,999

ORIGIN: DUMAGUETE

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
						NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE
MANILA	5J - 628	Daily	DC9	1530	1640	P2,899	P2,569	P2,199

ORIGIN: KALIBO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
						NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE
MANILA	5J - 340	Daily	DC9	1030	1120	P2,899	P2,569	P2,199
	5J - 342	Daily	DC9	1120	1210			

INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS

FROM	TO	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA
MANILA	HONGKONG	5J - 110	Daily	B757	0700	0900
		5J - 118	Daily	B757	1640	1840
HONG KONG	MANILA	5J - 111	Daily	B757	1000	1200
		5J - 119	Daily	B757	1940	2140
MANILA	SEOUL	5J - 194	M/F/Sun	B757	1340	1840
		5J - 1944	Th	B757	1340	1840
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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Fresh attack on the US 'almost certain'–Cheney

WASHINGTON—US Vice President Dick Cheney said on Sunday that a new attack on the United States was "almost certain" as US intelligence officials picked up signals that a fresh al-Qaida strike could be in the works.

Speaking in two television interviews, Cheney also sought to blunt criticism the Bush administration failed to pick up hints last summer that critics believe might have helped prevent the Sept. 11 attacks.

"In my opinion the prospects of a future attack against the United States are almost certain," Cheney said on NBC's "Meet the Press" program. "(It's) not a matter of if, but when."

"We don't know if it's going to be tomorrow or next week or next year, partly because I think we're having some success at disrupting the organization, making it more difficult for them to carry out their operations," he added. "But the prospect of another attack against the United States is very, very real."

A White House official said on Saturday US intelligence officials have detected "enhanced activity" that points to a potential new attack against the United States or American interests abroad.

The FBI also warned of a possible plot by Saudi-born militant Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network, which the United States believes carried out the Sept. 11 attacks, to detonate bombs in US apartment buildings.

The comments came as The New York Times reported US intelligence agencies had intercepted a series of messages among al-Qaida operatives indicating the group was attempting to launch an attack as big as or bigger than the one on Sept. 11.

Quoting unnamed intelligence and law enforcement officials, the Times characterized the communications as vague but disturbing, saying they were so general they have left US President George W. Bush and US officials uncertain about the timing, location or method in any new potential attack.

On Sunday, Cheney acknowledged the US government failed to anticipate the Sept. 11 attacks, which killed more than 3,000 people in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania, and partly blamed a system that did not adequately coordinate information from intelligence services and domestic law enforcement.

"There's no question but what there were failures. We obviously did not know what was about to happen. We were unable to prevent it," he told "Meet the Press."

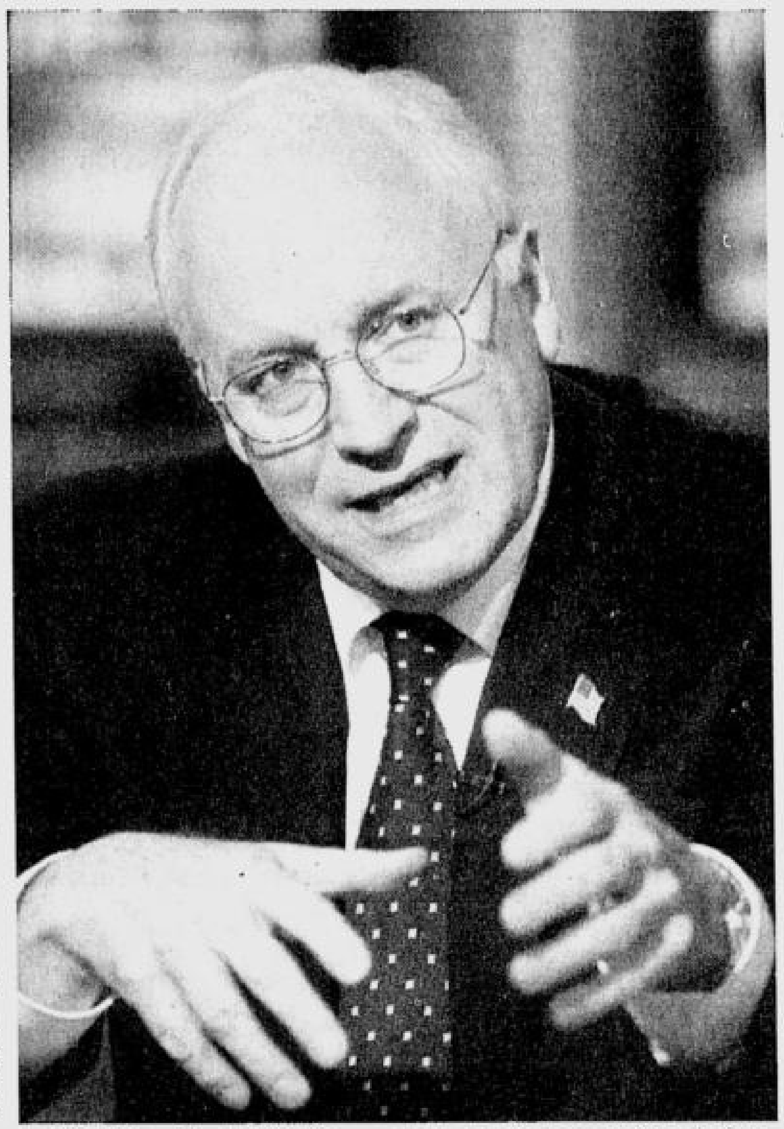
But Cheney also voiced anger at what Bush has called "second-guessing" by Democrats who last week pounced on the disclosure that the president had received an Aug. 6 briefing evoking the possibility of al-Qaida hijacking.

"There is nothing in there that's actionable intelligence," Cheney said of the Aug. 6 written analysis, which he said dealt mostly with the history of al-Qaida strikes and did not provide the kind of specific information needed to prevent an attack.

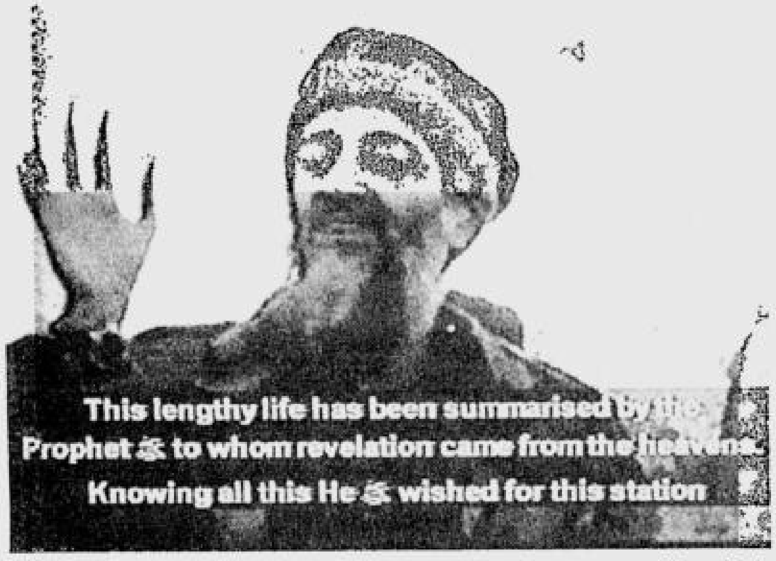
Critics have suggested the White House failed to piece together a string of hints that, in retrospect, appeared to presage the attacks on America.

These include a 1999 report written for the CIA that said Bin Laden-linked suicide bombers might slam an explosives-laden plane into the Pentagon, the CIA or the White House and a memo written in July by an FBI agent in Phoenix urging his superiors to investigate Middle Eastern men at US flight schools.

"The fact that the FBI had this explosive memo that was sent from Phoenix . . . and it just sat there for months and months—it was not even transmitted to the CIA . . . just shows we have a long way to go in terms of sharing information," said Sen. Richard Shelby, the Alabama Republican and vice chair of the Senate Intelligence Committee. *Reuters*



US VICE President Dick Cheney talks about the warnings before Sept. 11 on NBC's "Meet the Press" during a taping at the NBC studios May 19 in Washington, DC. REUTERS


This lengthy life has been summarised by the
Prophet ﷺ to whom revelation came from the heavens.
Knowing all this He ﷺ wished for this station

FOOTAGE from a video obtained by Reuters shows a man identified as Osama bin Laden speaking into a camera. The source who provided the video to Reuters and a British Sunday newspaper said the pictures were filmed in March 2002. If genuine, the film would provide the first proof that Bin Laden survived the US-led onslaught on his militant al-Qaida network. REUTERS

Is Bin Laden still alive? Video says he is

LONDON—A British newspaper said on Sunday it had obtained a previously unseen video of Osama bin Laden, in which the Saudi-born terrorist says any country siding with Israel is a target for Islamic terrorists.

The Sunday Times newspaper said unidentified supporters of the al-Qaida leader claimed sections of the 40-minute video were filmed eight weeks ago.

The newspaper said, however, that the video did not provide enough clues for it to be dated. Britain's Ministry of Defense said it had not seen the film and so could not comment on its contents.

US President George W. Bush's national security adviser, Condoleezza Rice, said: "I don't think we even know very much about the origins of this tape, so it's probably not wise to speculate."

"The focus really has to be on what we do in the war in Afghanistan and across the globe as well as what we do at home to try to prevent the attacks," Rice told ABC's "This Week."

"I think this tape is not so important in that regard," she said.

The Sunday Times said an Islamic news agency in the English city of Birmingham obtained the video from a Pakistani intelligence official, who said a section had been filmed in March.

The agency, called Al Ansaar, said on Sunday that the Pakistani official had given the tape to one of its reporters in Islamabad about a month ago.

"He said the new section had been filmed in March, but we have no way of verifying that," said Ansaar journalist Imran Khan.

"We know it is authentic film and we know it is Bin Laden. He looks very gaunt and not as healthy as he did on previous films," Khan added.

He said the film was on a CD-ROM, which the reporter brought to Britain 10 days ago. The CD-ROM contained a password, which the agency managed to unlock last week.

Khan said the Pakistani official claimed the new section of the video had been shot in southern Afghan border town of Spin Boldak.

According to the newspaper, the new section of the video showed Bin Laden sitting underneath a tree wearing a camouflage jacket.

"Concerning the situation we are in, we must praise Allah that he has allowed us to follow the path of (men who are among) the best of creation," the newspaper quoted Bin Laden as saying.

The newspaper said another clip featured an interview with Bin Laden carried out by a reporter from the Qatari television station Al-Jazeera.

In it Bin Laden warned that any country siding with Israel was a target.

"The war is between us and the Jews," the newspaper quoted him as saying. "Any country that steps into the same trench as the Jews has only herself to blame." *AP*

Pro-whaling nations dealt early defeat at Japan meet

SHIMONOSEKI, Japan—Pro-whaling nations suffered an early defeat at the annual meeting of the International Whaling Commission which opened in Japan on Monday when the body rejected Iceland's bid for full membership.

Iceland's reinstatement as a voting member had been seen as a crucial step toward gaining pro-whaling nations a simple majority, shifting the balance of power back to nations like Japan and Norway that favor a resumption of commercial hunting.

Twenty-five anti-whaling members voted in support of a ruling by Chairperson Bo Fernholm for Iceland to remain an observer, while 20 voted against and three abstained.

"The appeal failed and the chair's ruling stands," Fernholm said after the vote.

Iceland had reapplied for membership last year after walking out of the IWC a decade ago in disgust at the organization's anti-whaling stance.

It refused to sign up to the 1986 commercial whaling moratorium, setting off hot debate and resulting in an acrimonious vote that saw it admitted only as a non-voting observer.

Iceland said on Sunday it still had reservations about the moratorium, although observers had said it had softened its stance slightly to say it would not start whaling immediately.

Divisions run deep within the 56-year-old IWC, which pits whaling nations against those backing environmentalists who are opposed to what they see as the slaughter of endangered and intelligent mammals.

Sources close to the Icelandic delegation had said they expected strong opposition from the United States, one of the leaders of the battle against Iceland last year, and its allies.

Anti-whaling activists opposed admission for Iceland unless it agreed to the moratorium, saying it would undermine the authority of the IWC.

The vote also has broader implications.

Japan is persisting in its push to overturn the commercial whaling moratorium and expand its program of research whaling begun in 1987.

"I hope that this meeting will encourage IWC members not to treat whales separately and to make progress toward a plan for sustainable use," Japan's Agriculture Minister, Tsutomu Takebe said in his opening address.

Outside the convention center in Shimonoseki, a former whaling center some 825 km southwest of Tokyo building, Greenpeace activists staged a protest accusing Japan of vote-buying.

Dressed as officials, five activists held out ceremonial Japanese trays laden with money as they stood under a banner that read: "Aid for aid, not for whaling" to greet delegates arriving at the building, near a fish market where whale meat is sold.

Dozens of police were deployed, with helicopters occasionally circling above, and the Coast Guard sent patrol boats to the nearby Kanmon Strait to fend off any seaborne protests.

The list of IWC members has grown by six since April, with Portugal and Mongolia signing up just ahead of the meeting. They joined other recent members Benin, Gabon, Palau and San Marino.

Benin, Gabon and Palau and Mongolia are expected to vote for whaling, Portugal and landlocked San Marino against.

If Iceland had become a full member, pro-whaling nations would have gained one more vote.

Votes in recent years saw 20 against whaling and about 15 in favor. *Reuters*

South Asia tensions threaten to erupt into war

NEW DELHI/ISLAMABAD—India announced measures to streamline its armed forces on Sunday as tensions with enemy Pakistan threatened to erupt into war.

New Delhi, which has accused Pakistan of sponsoring militant assaults on India, put its border paramilitary forces under the Army's control instead of the Interior Ministry and the coastguard under the Navy's supervision.

Former Indian Army chief Gen. Ved Prakash Malik said the moves were a significant step that showed a "readiness (for a war but) it does not signal that we are going for a war."

The changes just come days after a raid on an Army camp in Indian Kashmir in which 34 people were killed, including the three attackers who India said were Pakistan-based Islamist extremists.

India says the Islamic guerrillas are operating freely from Pakistan—a charge Islamabad denies.

Nearly a million men have been mobilized by Pakistan and India on their border since an assault on the Indian parliament last December that India also blamed on Pakistan-based militants.

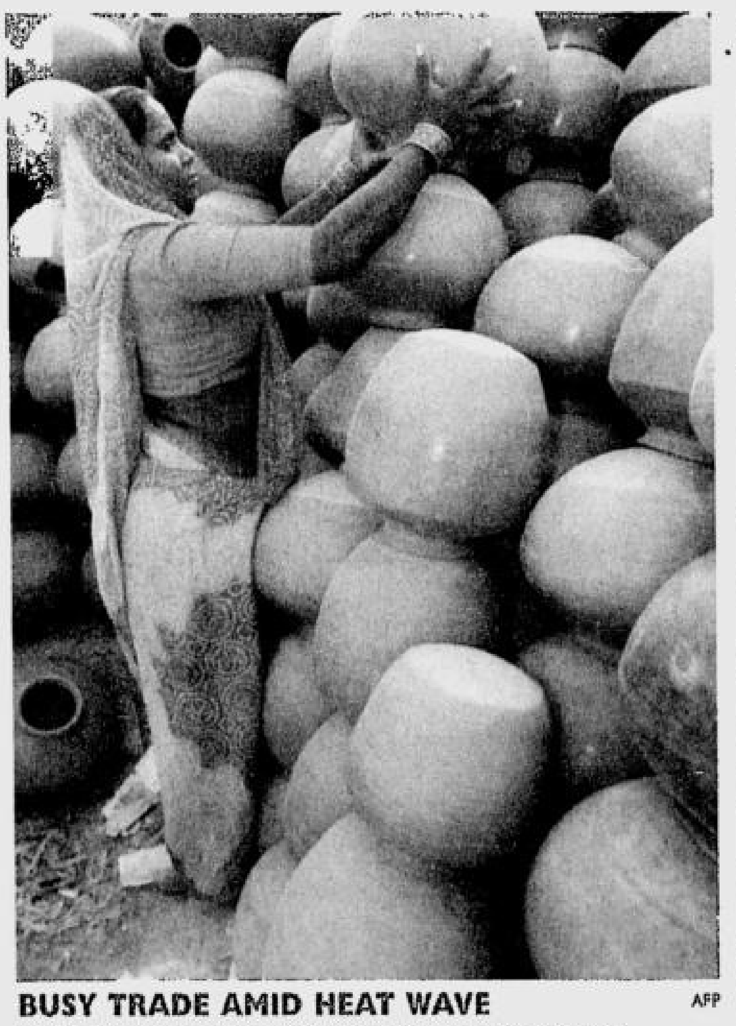
Most Indian analysts expect New Delhi to give Washington, which sees Pakistan as a key ally in its own war on terror, a chance to use diplomacy to pressure Islamabad to crack down on militants fighting India's rule in Kashmir.

The military changes came after a late night Cabinet security meeting and followed India's expulsion on Saturday of Pakistan's chief envoy in protest over Tuesday's Army camp raid. India had already recalled its own envoy from Islamabad.

Asked by reporters if the steps meant India was readying for war, Foreign Minister Jaswant Singh replied: "You are reading what you have to read, I do what I have to do."

He added "retaliatory fire assaults . . . shall be conducted every time any such incident is committed by Pakistan" against Indian border targets.

His warning came after Pakistani and Indian soldiers pounded each other with fierce mortar fire for a third day on Sunday. *Reuters*



BUSY TRADE AMID HEAT WAVE AFP

Earthen water pot vendor Lakshmi Devi arranges her merchandise at her roadside stall in Ahmedabad, May 20. More than 700 people have died in a blistering heat wave which has gripped the whole of India for more than a month.

US commando killed in Afghan firefight

BAGRAM, Afghanistan—A US special forces soldier was killed while on patrol in eastern Afghanistan on Sunday after his unit came under heavy fire during the coalition forces' latest search operation for Taliban and al-Qaida members, a US military spokesperson said.

There were no other reported coalition casualties in the firefight, which started when enemy forces engaged US forces with at least small arms fire at approximately 5 p.m. local time, said Capt. Steven O'Connor, a US military spokesperson at Bagram air base north of Kabul.

It was unclear whether there were any casualties on the opposing side.

The name of the slain soldier was being withheld until his relative had been notified.

Coalition forces have been in eastern Afghanistan searching for Taliban and al-Qaida members, Lt. Col. Ben Curry a British military spokesperson, said earlier Sunday.

Some 1,000 British-led troops launched the sweep through mountains near the city of Khost on Friday, saying they believed a "significant number" of fighters were there after an Australian patrol was attacked the day before.

The Australians came under heavy fire there for five hours, until calling in strikes by American A130 gunships. Ten people were killed, and the coalition said they were Taliban and al-Qaida fighters.

Curry said earlier Sunday that that coalition troops had searched half the area targeted by the sweep, named Operation Condor. A small amount of ammunition was found, including two 120 mm rockets and a few cases of 12.7 mm ammunition, he said at Bagram.

An Afghan tribe whose fighters were killed in Thursday's A130 strike disputed the coalition account of the fighting there. A delegation from the tribe discussed the bombing with US officers Saturday at Khost airport, where American special forces are based.

The Sabari said their fighters were skirmishing with the Balkhiel tribe in a dispute over a stand of trees near their villages 48 km north of Khost when the bombs fell. Sabari elders denied firing on the Australians or the US aircraft or having links to al-Qaida or the deposed Taliban militia. *AP*

AN ISRAELI injured by a suicide bombing in the Israeli city of Netanya receives help May 19. A suicide bomber blew himself up in a market, killing three others and shattering a sense of security that had slowly been returning to public places in Israel. REUTERS

2 suicide attacks kill 3 Israelis

JERUSALEM—A Palestinian blew himself up near a police patrol in northern Israel on Monday in the second suicide bombing in less than 24 hours, but killed only himself, police said.

The blast, one day after a suicide bomber killed three people in the coastal city of Netanya, raised fears of a new wave of suicide bombings after a lull in violence that world leaders have been trying to build on to revive peace efforts.

The incident occurred at about 7:20 a.m. near a bus stop at Taanachim Junction in the southern Galilee area when a tall man wearing jeans and sports shoes tried to board a bus picking up workers who were going to a nearby factory.

When told it was a private bus, he disembarked but suspicious passengers alerted the police by mobile phone, police sources said.

The man detonated his explosives when two members of a police patrol approached him and asked for his identity papers.

"We spoke to him and asked him who he was. He began to move back and then exploded," police patrolman Nayef Ghanem told Army Radio.

One policeman was slightly hurt in the incident, about 15 km from the West Bank city of Jenin, scene of the heaviest fighting in a recent Israeli military offensive in the West Bank that Israel said was aimed against suicide attackers.

Police said they believed the man was on his way to the nearby town of Afula, which has been the target of several previous Palestinian attacks in the almost 20-month-old uprising against Israeli occupation.

The two attacks raised the possibility of an Israeli military response and increased concern in Israel that a brief respite from regular bomb attacks might be over.

Israelis have been feeling safer and returning to restaurants, shopping centers and other public places in recent weeks following the military offensive launched in the West Bank on March 29 following earlier suicide bombings.

In Sunday's attack, the bomber detonated an explosives belt when he was close to a fruit and vegetable stall in a Netanya market. One bystander was killed on the spot and two people died in hospital. The bomber also died, and 35 people were wounded.

"I heard a huge boom and saw body parts flying," a witness, Eli Maimon, told Army Radio. "He (the bomber) came in an Army uniform."

The Israeli Army said it had carried out several brief raids in the West Bank during the night, including one into the city of Tulkarm close to the demarcation line between Israel and the West Bank. It said it had detained two wanted Palestinian militants near Hebron. The troops later withdrew. *Reuters*

Ex-secretary of state assails Bush's foreign policy

WASHINGTON—Two days before President George W. Bush's departure for Europe, a former US secretary of state delivered a scathing sendoff, accusing his foreign policy team of suffering from "untreated bipolar disorder."

In an apparent break with the tradition of rallying behind the president ahead of a major foreign trip, Madeleine Albright said in Medford, Massachusetts, Sunday it was sometimes difficult for her to see cohesion in the Bush administration's foreign policy.

"Because on some important issues, the Bush foreign policy team seems to be suffering from untreated bipolar disorder," said Albright, who served in the administration of former president Bill Clinton, in her commencement address at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University.

"They talk about the importance of our alliances in Europe and Asia and then fail to employ our alliances on matters of mutual security concern.

"They advocate a more open system of world trade, while imposing protectionist measures on steel, and backing vastly increased subsidies for America's corporate farms.

"They support a heightened effort to save lives by fighting AIDS, while placing unwise restrictions on life-saving programs to promote reproductive health.

"They warn about the dangers posed by ballistic missiles, but needlessly delayed negotiations with North Korea on how to reduce that very threat."

Under pressure from struggling US steel companies and the farm lobby, the Bush administration has slapped import duties on some imported steel products as high as 30 percent and backed a bill that dramatically boosts agricultural subsidies.

The criticism came ahead of Bush's trip to Europe, during which he will visit Germany, France and Russia for talks on arms control, trade and the future of the war on terror launched in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks.

The US president will also take part in a Nato summit in Italy.

Albright also took issue with Bush's policies in the Middle East and Afghanistan, his stance on human rights, as well as his abandonment of the 1997 Kyoto Protocol and an accord setting up the International Criminal Court.

"They talk about the importance of the rule of law, but seem allergic to treaties designed to strengthen the rule of law in areas such as money laundering, biological weapons, crimes against humanity, and the environment," the former secretary of state said of Bush administration officials.

"They criticize Cuba's lack of democracy, while praising autocrats from Malaysia and other lands. *AFP*

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole of Luzon will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming widespread rains over the Northern and Wastern sections. The rest of the country will be mostly cloudy.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	HI32° Lo 25°
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	HI 26° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 23°
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 25°
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 24°
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	HI 33° Lo 23°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 25°
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 24°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 25°
Roxas	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 25°
Cebu	Mostly Cloudy	HI 34° Lo 26°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	HI 33° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 25°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	HI 33° Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Mostly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 25°
Davao	Mostly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 25°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/05/21/02

ROUNDUP

Slain by neighbors

DAVAO CITY—A birthday party here turned bloody after the celebrator and her three sons were killed by their neighbors in Malabog, Paquibato District on Friday night. The victims were identified as Ester Manguirin and her sons Dondon, Jimmy and Danny. It was Ester's 50th birthday celebration and her sons were having a drinking spree in their house, when their neighbor Roming Ronquero and his son Bobong, allegedly attacked them with bolos and knives. Gina, Dondon's wife, claimed that the Ronqueros could have been envious of the Manguirins who now enjoy a better life after years of hard work. The suspects fled after killing the victims.
Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Mutilated body found

DAVAO CITY—A mutilated male body was found along the seashore of Bucana District here on Thursday morning, but police have yet to identify the victim. Police said the victim's body parts were placed in a b lack bag and was discovered in Purok 12 in Bucana.
Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Murder cases up

LEGAZPI CITY—More prisoners are facing murder and homicide charges in Bicol jails in the first quarter of this year compared to the same period last year, according to the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology. The number of murder suspects jailed was 192 persons higher while the number of homicide cases was up by 102 from the previous year's count. Senior Supt. Ruben C. Bonavente, BJMP Bicol director, attributed the increases not only to the growing population but also to the proliferation of loose firearms. Masbate is No. 1 in the number of prisoners charged with murder at 420, or about a third of the total 1,347 for the region.
Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Trash collection

BAGUIO CITY—Officials here are pushing for the privatization of garbage collection in the city to improve services and save on cost. The proposal's main proponent, Councilor Richard Cariño, said private contractors could send two trucks to haul garbage in each barangay in the city. Romeo Concio, general services office chief, said the planned privatization is more advantageous to the city government because private contractors offer their services at cheaper prices. Concio said the city government is spending P32 million in collecting, hauling and disposing of garbage alone. He, however, said they are collecting only P4 million from garbage fees and recycled materials.
Catherine de la Chica and Audrey Velasco, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Endangered animals seized

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Police intercepted a tricycle carrying several endangered species along Rizal Avenue here last week. They found 107 parrots, 10 squirrels, 10 Palawan hornbills or *kalaw*, two Palawan bearcats, and a flying squirrel in the possession of one Rudy Madayag. All the animals were in plastic baskets put inside traveling bags. Madayag, a former member of the Philippine Marines, however, denied that the wild animals belonged to him and said he did not know that the bags contained the animals. The animals are now at the Palawan Wildlife Refuge and Rescue Sanctuary in Barangay Irawan for custody and rehabilitation. The suspects are now jailed at the PNP provincial office and are facing charges of Violation of Section 77 of Republic Act 7161.
Geraldford P. Ticke, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Matic, 69

MALOLOS, Bulacan—Lamberto Matic, the former president of the Bulacan Press Club Inc., died after a heart bypass operation at the Philippine Heart Center on Saturday. He was 69. Matic was the publisher of the local weekly Reflector Saturday. His remains lie at the family home in Barangay Sta. Barbara, Baliuag. He will be buried on May 25 at 2 p.m. *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Condom use down

DAVAO CITY—Health officials here have sounded the alarm after it was found that the use of condom among commercial sex workers has been steadily on the decline during the last five years. A recent survey conducted by the Social Hygiene Clinic revealed that only about 9 percent of registered prostitutes make their partners use condoms from 11 percent last year, while among non-registered prostitutes (freelancers), only 11 percent require their partners to use condoms. Dr. Rosita Cueto, chief physician of the Social Hygiene Clinic of the City Health Office, said five years ago, condom usage among commercial sex workers was 34 percent. "But this is not to say that we were wanting in our education campaign, although we must still strengthen and reinforce it," she said.
Joel B. Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Cops say 6 held in Pangasinan building 18-ha terrorist camp

By Peter La. Julian
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

SAN FERNANDO CITY—The six Muslim converts who were arrested by the police in Pangasinan last May 2 were developing an 18-hectare site in Barangay Mal-ong in Anda town into a training camp for would-be terrorists, a top police official said here.

Senior Supt. Enrique Villanueva Jr., deputy police chief for administration for Ilocos, said the suspects had admitted that they were trainers and the outposts and foxholes found in the village were designed for a terrorists' training camp.

"This debunked their earlier claims (before media persons) that they were legitimate businessmen," Villanueva said.

But Villanueva would not say if the suspects had direct links with the al-Qaida network of Osama bin Laden, the prime suspect in the Sept. 11 bombing of the World Trade Center in New York and of the Pentagon in Washington.

"We may not have evidence to establish their links with al-Qaida but certainly they are members of an elaborate terrorist network whose members masterminded the LRT bombing in (Manila in) December 2000," he said.

Among those arrested in the village was Dawud Muslim del Rosario Santos whose grandparents owned the 18-hectare land where a Madrash Islamic School is located.

The police also recovered from the area high-powered guns, bullets, rifle grenades, documents, Islamic books and pamphlets and other military equipment.

Villanueva said Dawud is the brother of Ahmad Santos, who administers the Islamic school and one of the three suspected al-Qaida cell leaders in the country.

Police said Ahmad Santos, whose seized ID bears his signature and name, is the cell leader of Balik-Islam and other Islamic converts.

He, along with 50 others, including five Muslim converts under him, underwent a special training course conducted by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front at Barangay Lumbatan in Lanao del Sur from Dec. 1 last year to Jan. 2, according to police.

One of the documents seized in Barangay Mal-ong was a photograph that showed Ahmad Santos posing with MILF Chair Salamat Hashim and Al Haj Murad, MILF vice chair for military affairs.

The photo was taken during the course graduation ceremonies where Abuzamis Mimbatas, an MILF central committee member, was guest of honor and speaker, Villanueva said.

Villanueva said Ahmad Santos, also a resident of Barangay Mal-ong, was indoctrinated in radical Islamic fundamentalism as he is a member of the Islamic Students Call and Guidance (ISCG).

The ISCG, a radical Muslim fundamentalist organization, played a major role in the establishment of the Anda Madrash, according to Villanueva.

The other five Muslim converts were trainers and correspondents of the Quezon City-based Fi Sabillah Da'wah and Media Foundation, he said.

Da'wah is engaged in radio and television broadcasts and is a front organization for radical Muslim groups, he said.

Villanueva said the six suspects are now in the custody of the Pangasinan Mobile Group in Lingayen town. They were scheduled for preliminary investigation last week before Judge William Pascua of the Anda municipal trial court.

Trader's wife denies kidnapping charge

ROXAS CITY—Marivic Fajardo-Salazar denied the kidnapping charge filed against her by the National Bureau of Investigation in Western Visayas and accused the NBI of causing Wednesday's shootout that led to the death of her husband and two others.

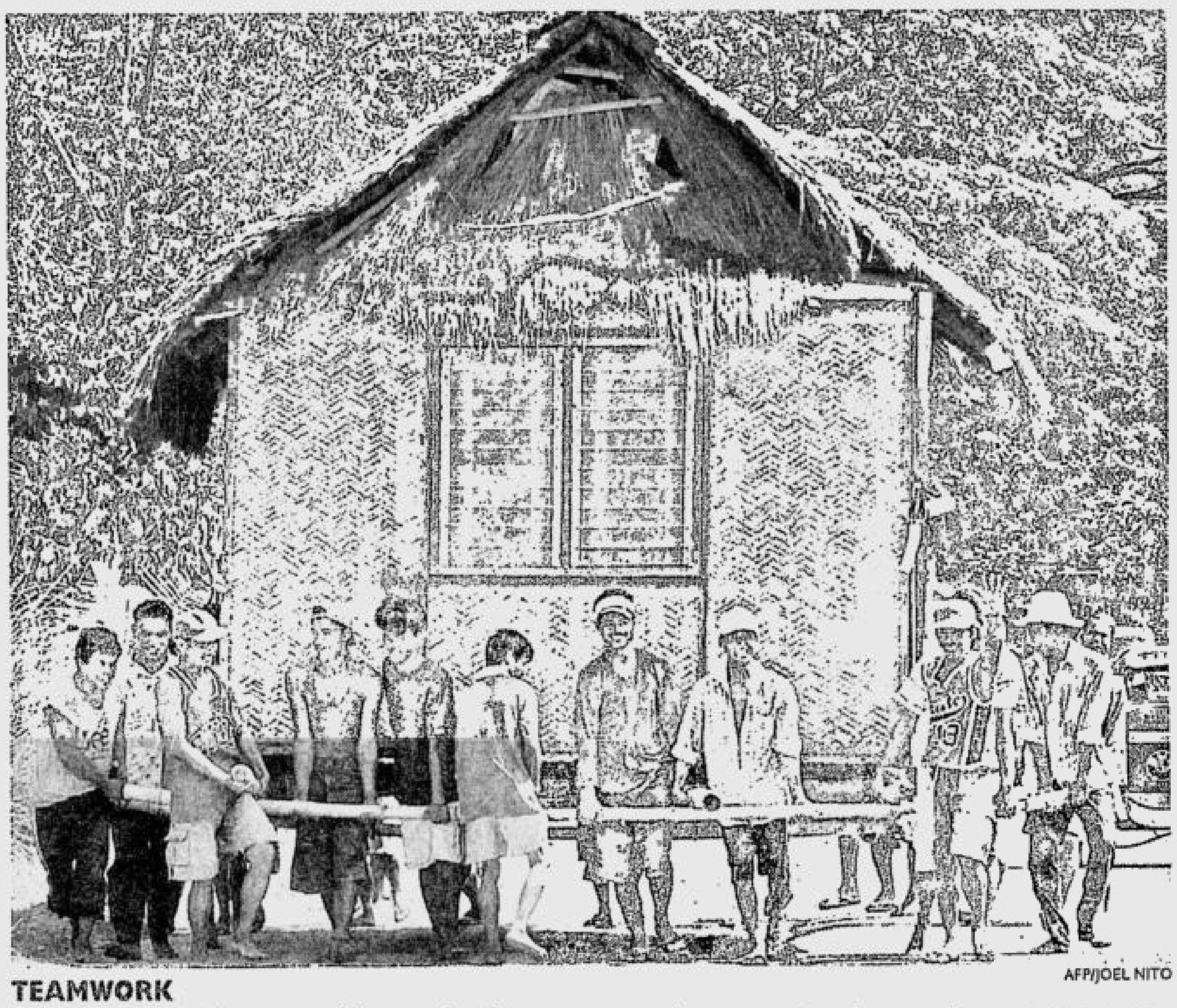
Salazar said had the NBI first made a thorough investigation, it would have found out that she and her husband Dindo did not kidnap Manila-based physician Madeline Erada, as claimed by Perla Pasoquin, the Passi City-based sister of Madeline. Pasoquin was earlier reported to be negotiating with the couple for her sister's "release."

It was the first time Marivic talked to reporters after Wednesday's shootout that resulted in the death of her husband Dindo, Pasoquin and Army Private First Class Janet Bacanto.

Marivic revealed that she and her husband knew Madeline for a long time and that Madeline owed them almost P500,000.

The Salazars, both from prominent Capiz clans, are businessmen. Marivic sells jewelry.

She said they had filed estafa charges against Madeline and did not know her whereabouts until they accidentally met on May 9 at the domestic airport in Manila. ***Gerry T. Pagharion, PDI Visayas Bureau***



AFP/JOEL NITO

TEAMWORK

The spirit of Bayanihan, or working together for a common goal, was recaptured on a major road in Tarlac by an act it had been commonly associated with—of a group of men moving a house to a new site.

Masons seek dialogue with Church leaders

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—Members of the Free and Accepted Masons here are asking for representation in the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) summit in July to settle issues on burial rites for Masons who are also Catholics.

"This is a very disturbing issue among us members that's why we are planning to have a dialogue with the CBCP officials to know our stand as Catholics," Purisimo Tiam, a Mason, told the INQUIRER.

The controversy started when Fr. Tony Palina, parish priest here, asked Masons to renounce their membership in the fraternity before they could be given final sacrament rites.

Last May 1, Palina denied church rites during the burial of Victor de la Cruz, 60, a Mason, despite his being a faithful Catholic.

"We are alarmed that this thing happened to us. How about the other family members of Masons who believe in the Catholic faith? Will we have the same treatment despite our being a Catholic?" said De la Cruz's son, Raymond.

He said the incident has brought emotional trauma to the family.

"We believe in the Catholic faith and we would also like to be treated as non-Masons," he said. ***Ben Moses Ebreo, PDI Northern Luzon***

10,000 enjoy free diesel courtesy of leak

CLARK FIELD, Pampanga—It was a fiesta-like atmosphere on Sunday when some 10,000 people trooped to a village in Floridablanca, Pampanga, to get diesel fuel that leaked on Saturday afternoon from a portion of the 42-km long Clark-Subic pipeline.

This developed as Floridablanca officials clarified on Monday that it was only diesel fuel that leaked from the pipeline and not highly flammable aviation gas, contrary to newspaper reports.

Floridablanca Councilor Armando Manacmul, municipal action officer, also clarified that the leak did not cause massive pollution in the farmlands and populated areas of the town because the diesel fuel flowed into a deep hole that has a 20-meter diameter.

Manacmul said local officials decided to allow the people to gather a million liters of diesel that leaked out in Barangay Consuelo to prevent it from flowing into the Gumain River.

"As many as 10,000 people came to fetch diesel. They came from different villages of Floridablanca and nearby towns like Guagua and Porac (in Pampanga) and Dinalupihan (in Bataan). We said it would be better for the people to get the diesel than to let it flow to the Gumain River," he said.

Manacmul said the village folk sold the diesel they gathered at P1,500 per drum, which is half the regular pump price of the fuel.

The fuel leak occurred at 4 p.m. on Saturday when a quarry payloader hit a portion of the pipeline.

"The payloader was extracting sand too close to the Consuelo bridge. This was a violation of existing quarrying regulations," Manacmul said.

He said the payloader is owned by Edna Tan, a businesswoman who has a permit to quarry along the riverbanks of Consuelo village.

The payloader's driver, identified as Joseph Almario, 35, is detained at the municipal police jail. No charges had been filed against him as of yesterday morning.

An official of the Coastal Petroleum Corp., the firm maintaining the pipeline, said the leak had been placed under control since Saturday night when the firm's personnel sealed off the damaged pipe.

The official, however, admitted that they were having difficulty in retrieving the fuel because hundreds of people were still getting diesel that they could use or sell. He said that they could not control the people. ***Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

Dad who heads fisheries body held for illegal fishing

By Nestor P. Burgos and Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—The No. 1 councilor of Victorias City, Negros Occidental, who happens to chair the city council's committee on agriculture and fisheries, was arrested and jailed along with nine others in Iloilo on Sunday for alleged illegal fishing.

Councilor Daniel Tornea was manning his fishing vessel, named "Daralen," when he and his companions were arrested at 9 a.m. Sunday at Punta Buri, Ajuy for illegally fishing in waters off Ajuy, Iloilo, according to Iloilo Gov. Niel Tupas.

Tornea and his crewmen were arrested by Bantay Dagat volunteers and policemen some 800 kilometers off the coast of Barangay Malauyan in Ajuy town, 92 kilometers north of Iloilo City. Police recovered 20 kilos of fish catch.

Arrested with Tornea were Fernando Buenavides, 32; Marlon Biñas, 20; Gaundencio Retobis, 40; Glenmark Ausan, 20; Ermilo Tornea, 40; Rodney Venson, 23; and three minors, including a 10-year-old boy.

They are now detained at the Ajuy police station. Supt. Remus Zacharias Canieso, chief of the 3rd Philippine National Police Mobile Group based in Sara town, said they would file criminal charges against Tornea and the boat crew for violating Section 90 of Republic Act 8850 or the Fisheries Code of 1998.

The code prohibits fishing in municipal waters and in all bays as well as other fishery management areas using prohibited fishing gears.

The fishermen led by Tornea were found using a fishing method called *"hulbot-hulbot,"* which, according to fisheries officials, is considered illegal if used within 15 kilometers from the shoreline.

Through that method, the fishing net is weighed down by weights and is dragged through the seabed, destroying corals in the process.

Iloilo Rep. Rolex Suplico who was present during the arrest said Tornea tried to negotiate for his release but Iloilo officials refused to give him any special treatment.

"Tornea as a public official should be the model (for) his constituents, instead of being a violator of the law… and to think that he is chairman of his city's committee on agriculture and fisheries," Tupas said.

Tornea was not available for comment. But Victorias Vice Mayor Severo Palanca said the councilor could just be at the wrong place at the wrong time.

"I was told that Tornea's group saw a (fishing) vessel from Manapla (Negros Occidental) being apprehended by the Ajuy Bantay Dagat and (when) they went nearer to see what was happening, (they) were apprehended, too," Palanca said.

Palanca said Tornea, whose livelihood is fishing, campaigned in the last elections by giving away dried fish.

Negros Occidental Gov. Joseph Marañon said he has inquired about the condition of the councilor and was assured by Iloilo officials that the legal process would be followed and that Tornea could post bail anytime.

MYSTERIOUS DISEASE

Tests fail to identify Ormoc City virus

CEBU CITY—Laboratory examinations made on the blood samples taken from the Larrazabal children failed to determine what kind of virus had afflicted them.

The Research Institute of Tropical Medicine in Alabang, Muntinlupa and the National Institute for Health in Japan, however, said the virus was not the one that causes the dreaded West Nile or the Japanese B encephalitis.

Dr. Juanito Zuasula, the regional speciminologist of the Department of Health in Central Visayas, said the two laboratories already released the results of their examinations.

In fact, he said, the results of both tests could not even say if a virus or bacteria had afflicted the 12 children from the Larrazabal clan in Ormoc City last month.

But Zuasula clarified that these results could be considered preliminary. He said they were waiting for the results of more elaborate tests conducted by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta, Georgia.

"Until now, we cannot tell for certain what that disease is. But we can say that the possibility that it was West Nile or Japanese B encephalitis is remote," Zuasula said.

Zuasula said they are sending for the second time to the CDC laboratory in Atlanta the blood samples of the victims, including the one taken from 11-year-old Marcos Larrazabal II, who has remained in coma since he was downed by the mysterious disease in April.

Marcos is the only victim of the mysterious virus who remains in the hospital since he and his cousins, with ages ranging from 3 to 15, were afflicted with the mysterious disease in early April. They all live in the family compound in Barangay Bantigue, Ormoc City. The others were earlier treated of sore eyes and high fever.

Zuasula said the second set of blood samples was necessary so that scientists at the CDC laboratory could compare the level of anti-bodies found in the first set of blood samples.

Zuasula said it would take time before the CDC could release their final findings.

Dr. Pontenciano Larrazabal, uncle of the afflicted children and owner of the Cebu Doctors Hospital where Marcos is confined, said they were still hopeful that experts could identify the virus.

"We're still waiting and hoping that they would eventually identify (the virus). They (the scientists) are still doing studies and in fact we sent another specimen two weeks ago to Atlanta," Larrazabal said.

Larrazabal also said that they still hope that Marcos would be able to recover.

"(Marcos is) still in coma... no change," Larrazabal said. He added that the child was showing signs of recovery and that his reflexes had returned. ***Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau***

Dagupan loses status as 1st class city

DAGUPAN CITY—The Department of Finance has reclassified this city as second class after it failed to meet the annual average income of P205 million required for first class cities from 1996 to 1999.

City Administrator Rafael Baraan said the average annual income of Dagupan during those years was P203 million.

Only Dagupan was downgraded among the cities in the Ilocos region. Others maintained their classifications. These are Laoag, second class; San Carlos, second class; San Fernando, third class; and Urdaneta, third class.

Dagupan City Mayor Benjamin Lim said Dagupan slipped because it "simply did not take full advantage of the excellent opportunities for local revenue generation (that had) been ours to tap."

He asked the city council to review and amend the local revenue code and other similar ordinances to update the rates to current levels, and the DOF to help the city update the city's real property valuation.

In the early 1990s, immediately after the implementation of the Local Government Code, local revenues represented 63 percent of the city's total income with its internal revenue allotment (IRA) share accounting for only 37 percent.

Last year, the situation was reversed, with the IRA share comprising 62 percent of the total budget, and local revenues at 38 percent.

Baraan said Dagupan City was "demoted" because it failed to revise its real property tax code since 1987, so the tax base of the city is much lower than the value of its real property.

The DOF prescribes that there must be a general revision of real property tax every three years.

In Central Mindanao (Region 12), Kidapawan City slid from third class to fourth, while in Caraga (Region 13), Surigao City went down from first class to second class. ***Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Balweg men formalize peace offer to NPA

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Militiamen loyal to slain rebel priest Conrado Balweg have formalized a peace offer to the New People's Army this week to respond to a Malacañang policy on Cordillera affairs "that no longer supports Balweg's campaign for Cordillera autonomy."

Ernesto Garado, spokesperson of the Cordillera People's Liberation Army (CPLA) faction identified with Balweg, said a council of elders authorized last week the transmission of a CPLA peace offer to the Cordillera People's Democratic Front (CPDF), the communist underground's political office in the region.

Garado told the INQUIRER on Tuesday that Malacañang's political agenda in the region, as well as widespread lobby efforts to amend the 1987 Constitution, "have changed the peace and order landscape of the Cordillera."

He said the changes could escalate tensions in the region unless all armed groups in the Cordillera forge a *sipat* (cessation of hostilities).

Renato Diaz, presidential adviser on Northern Luzon development, said President Macapagal-Arroyo has adopted a "wait-and-see" attitude on the 1987 peace agreement between Balweg and former President Corazon Aquino, which reportedly kept peace in the insurgency-affected region.

Diaz said the government is awaiting a Supreme Court resolution on a suit filed against the government in 2000 by the CPLA, when deposed President Joseph Estrada abolished three special agencies governing the Cordillera Administrative Region.

Garado said Malacañang's action is proof that the Macapagal administration dropped its basic commitment to install an autonomous government for the Cordillera.

Instead, Ms Macapagal had pursued the integration of CPLA militiamen into the military, "mistaking it for the substance of the Balweg peace agreement," Garado said.

"This is dangerous because the people she is integrating are members (of two breakaway CPLA factions) who are involved in crimes, or are part of tribal wars. When they emerge, they will (carry the mantle of government), and may aggravate the problems (of the Cordillera provinces). The military may also force a confrontation with the NPA, using these CPLA integrees," he said.

About 330 applicants, belonging to the factions led by Mayor Mailed Molina of Bucloc, Abra, and by former communist rebel James Sawatang, have undergone military training at Camp Merchor de la Cruz in Isabela.

But a least 40 of these applicants are being investigated by the military for links to ongoing tribal wars between villages in Mt. Province and Kalinga. ***With a report from Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

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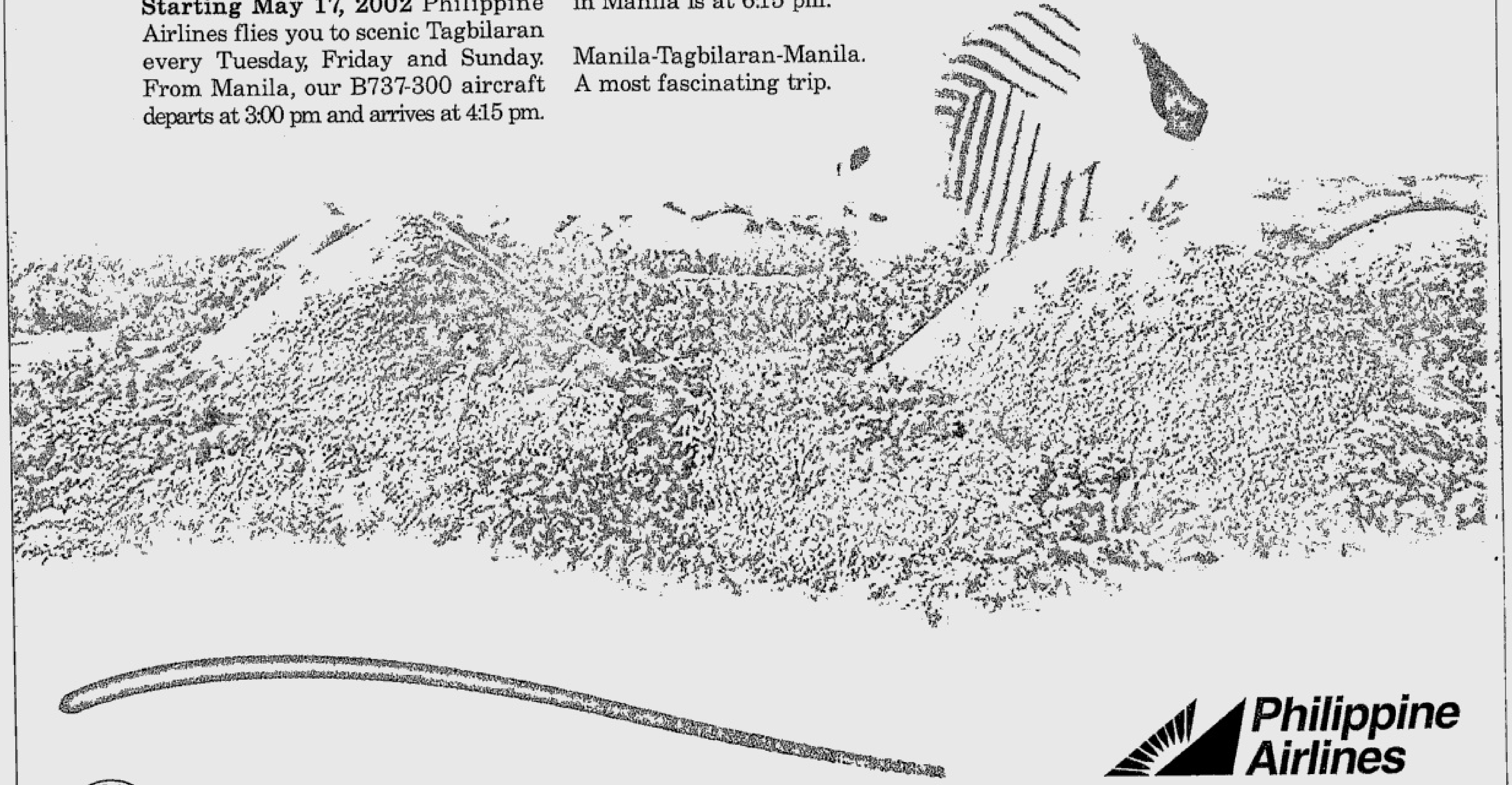

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Scrap senators' pork, House leader urges

From page A1

scrapping of pork barrel "because they need projects to bring back to their respective districts. Without that, they will lose a huge amount of political patronage."

Sen. Noli de Castro said House members would be the first to be hurt should pork barrel be abolished.

He admitted, however, that the pork he had helped channel to Oriental Mindoro built farm-to-market roads that his provincemates had not seen before.

Two sources

Members of Congress have two sources of pork barrel. One is the Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF), previously called the Countrywide Development Fund, which comes from various departments.

The other is the Public Works Fund of the Department of Public Works and Highways, which amounts to P34.8 billion next year.

A member of the House is entitled to identify projects up to P65 million from the PDAF and a minimum of P35 million from the DPWH's annual public works fund. Senators are allowed to identify P200 million worth of projects from the two sources every year.

Camarines Sur Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr., chair of the House appropriations committee, said Lacson was missing the point.

"I realize the point that he is trying to drive at but the reality here is that whatever branch of government you give the funds to, if we have the same process of bidding, we will have the same problem (of corruption)," Andaya said.

Even the leader of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP), Lacson's party in the House, rejected the senator's proposal.

House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla (LDP) said scrapping the pork barrel was not the solution to corruption.

"Are you saying that if there is corruption in the implementation of education or health projects, we should scrap the budget for education and health?" he asked.

He said, "if there is corruption, let us run after the people who are corrupt. But let us not remove the pork barrel because it is funding for projects that benefit our people."

Padilla said House members were just tasked with identifying projects but the implementing agencies disburse the funds.

"*Hindi kami nagmamalinis* (We're not saying that we congressmen are clean). But I think those who implement the projects pocket a bigger share of the funds," Padilla said.

He said corruption would remain even if pork barrel were scrapped.

District engineer

He cited the modus operandi of government engineers in getting kickbacks. Before a contractor can collect the money, he goes to the district engineer to certify the project, according to Padilla.

He said the engineer should inspect the project before he issues a certification. But the engineer would tell the contractor that he was busy and could not inspect the project right away.

"So even if he does not say (that he wants grease money), the message is very clear," he said.

The same method applies down the line, according to Padilla.

To overhaul the government's system of bidding out infrastructure projects and to provide transparency in the acquisition of goods and services, Andaya has filed a "procurement reform bill."

The bill seeks to do away with the tedious pre-qualification process for bidders because it is in this stage in which bribery is reportedly rampant.

"I ask Senator Lacson to cosponsor the procurement reform bill in the Senate," Andaya said.

Bad eggs

Pichay wants Lacson to prove his accusation that legislators get kickbacks.

"Let us vigorously investigate, prosecute and punish graft and corruption in all branches of government, including in the legislature. But let us not poison the entire well for our people just because of a few bad eggs," Pichay said.

Pichay said the people would suffer from the scrapping of pork barrel.

"Pork barrel allocations ensure that an equitable share in development funds is given to each congressional district, to be used in projects and programs that are mandated under strict guidelines of the budget department and supervision of the Commission on Audit," Pichay said.

He said congressmen identify the projects after consultations with their constituents.

The opposition to Lacson's proposal is not confined to the House. Two senators are against it.

Sen. John Osmeña, chair of the Senate finance committee, dismissed Lacson's proposal, saying that a legislator has the prerogative whether to use his or her pork barrel.

"So if you're not for (pork barrel), you have the prerogative not to use it," Osmeña said.

Sen. Robert Barbers said that what should be strengthened were the laws on public bidding.

"What should be done is to make sure that public bidding and not the say-so of a senator or congressman is followed in selecting contractors," Barbers said.

Lacson said that after hearing the mixed reactions of legislators, both in the Senate and in the House, "I am now more driven to pursue my proposal."

Compromise formula

This afternoon, the House committees on appropriations and on public works are scheduled to meet to tackle the compromise formula for the sharing of the P34.8 billion in public works funds.

Congressmen fought bitterly over a proposal to equally divide the P34.8 billion among the districts.

Pichay proposed that the present formula—based on population and infrastructure scarcity—be retained and an "equalization fund" to be taken from the departments of agriculture and of agrarian reform for the disadvantaged districts.

Andaya opposed this, saying it can open the floodgates for more pork barrel.

A technical panel, composed of 11 congressmen including Pichay and Andaya, met last week and agreed to adopt a "brotherhood system."

Districts, which get more than P38 million in public works funds, have to share one to 3 percent to the "poorer districts."

'If anything . . .'

From page A1

ferring to the forces that put father and son in jail. Asked to elaborate on his remark, he merely said: "I may have to risk my own life, too."

The young Estrada, 39, reportedly went into a vomiting fit and had difficulty breathing last week, prompting his transfer from the Veterans Memorial Medical Center to the prestigious Makati hospital's intensive care unit.

The Estrada family physician, Dr. Larry Hocson, earlier said Jinggoy had shown symptoms of aspiration pneumonia, a result of stomach fluids entering the young Estrada's lungs. The doctor said the medical emergency occurred when Jinggoy was being sedated in preparation for the examination of his bleeding rectal area.

Hocson cited the lack of proper equipment at the VMMC, where the Estrada's share a detention suite, as the reason for Jinggoy's transfer. Being an emergency, he said, his detained patient was moved to the private hospital without court permission.

Estrada yesterday said his son fell "unconscious" during that emergency while still at the VMMC. "His mother (Sen. Luisa Ejercito) was crying the whole time," he recalled.

It was the fifth time Jinggoy was rushed to the MMC. His first four trips to the private hospital were for a recurring heart ailment.

The latest medical episode occurred as the special Sandiganbayan division hearing the Estrada cases began giving priority to Jinggoy's revived petition for bail.

State prosecutors have been ordered by the court to start presenting evidence and witnesses on the jueteng bribery scandal, the only element of the Estradas' plunder case in which Jinggoy has been implicated.

Jinggoy's bail petition, this time pursued by the Estradas' court-appointed lawyers, tries to capitalize on the accused being linked to only one of the four predicate crimes cited in the plunder charge.

Estrada said it pained him most to see his son being charged along with him and being denied bail, at that.

"This is the work of cruel people without conscience," he said.

Veterans Bank lies at center of conflict

From page A1

keeps some P11 billion in deposits with the bank, he claims, because government officials in charge of that money are paid as much as 2 percent "interest" for parking it.

The PVB, which held its annual stockholders' meeting last Friday, is an authorized government depository.

A former branch management official who did agree to an interview says bank officials use a special fund to provide government officials who transact business with the bank "additional interests (sic)."

"It's for under-the-table transactions," says the man who asks to be named in the meantime as Edel Molina. He says he will reveal his identity if he is called to testify in Congress or in court.

But in a separate interview, PVB president Ricardo Balbido Jr. says: "We categorically deny this! I joined the bank a year ago and I can assure you that the bank has not bribed anybody just to get the deposit business."

Dosri loans

In a complaint filed with the Regional Trial Court of Quezon City last week by retired Col. Charlie Beloso, the Crusade to Reform Veterans Organizations (Crevo) claimed that the bank approved some P600 million in questionable loans. The complaint alleges a total of P1.3 billion in "anomalies," the rest involving the VFP.

According to the complaint, at least two of the loans are in possible violation of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' rules on Dosri (Directors, Officers, Stockholders and Related Interests).

One is a P69-million loan granted Green Square Properties, where Roxas and De Ocampo are listed as principal stockholders. The other is a P35-million loan granted Green Dreams Holding Corp., where again Roxas and De Ocampo are among the stockholders.

The Green Dreams loan is designed to facilitate in-house financing of real estate sales in the so-called Green City located in Imus, Cavite. (There is another Roxas company called Green Circle.)

Roxas, who says he is the bank's largest single stockholder, laments what he calls the "twisted facts" of De Ocampo's accusers. "(Beloso) twists it," he says, "making it appear that it is wrong."

Dosri loans are allowed under the law, provided they are securitized at 70 percent and do not exceed 15 percent of the bank's total loan portfolio.

Balbido says that Crevo's claims are mistaken, and that "as far as I can see, all these Dosri loans are aboveboard."

"Every day we report to the Bangko Sentral our exposure to Dosri loans," he says, and presents one such report ostensibly showing that as of the week ending May 10, Dosri loans at the PVB amounted to only P44 million. In contrast, the "allowable" amount available for such loans is P1.1 billion.

The PVB "maintains that there are NO violations on the granting of the Dosri loans," Balbido adds in a statement faxed to the INQUIRER.

De Ocampo says, "it is not illegal to use Dosri rules" to grant loans. "Besides," he adds, the two Green loans "went through the central bank already."

"The loan is based on my stockholdings in the bank, but I paid it with my property," Roxas says. "I do not make money out of the bank."

Crevo also alleges that the bank, through its branch in Monteverde, Davao, approved a "behest loan" worth P500 million in favor of the Region XI Educators Multi-Purpose Cooperative (Remco) in spite of insufficient collateral.

Molina says the loan was granted after a relative of De Ocampo's son interceded. He says the PVB has already "written off" some P125 million of that loan.

"But that is not a behest loan," De Ocampo replies. "And it's (backed by collateral). There's a memorandum of agreement between Remco and the bank."

"The allegation that this loan is 'behest' is unfounded and obviously (made) with malice," Balbido says in his statement. "It is a legitimate loan granted to individual teachers covered by a Deed of Assignment assigning the proceeds to their cooperative institution (Remco). Remco on this arrangement also executed a corporate guaranty. All loan proceeds are accounted to have been credited to Remco's deposit accounts."

Bank bribes

Molina says the practice of giving additional interest to government officials in their personal capacities is part of the PVB's initial marketing strategy to encourage government agencies to deposit their funds with the bank.

"The additional interest goes directly to the personal funds of the recipients and not to the coffers of the government agency concerned," he says. "Thus, the scheme is highly confidential in nature and strictly known only to concerned branch heads."

Molina says that under the scheme, the PVB offers government officials (such as the treasurer or administrative officer) an additional one-percent interest for savings accounts and 1.5 percent for current accounts.

"This is on top of the regular interests (sic) which go to the government account," he says.

When he was a senior official of a Luzon branch, Molina says, the bank granted an average of P60,000 in additional interest to government officials who kept accounts with the PVB. In another branch in a bigger city, an average of P100,000 monthly was spent for such transactions.

"I just continued the practice from previous branch management for both branches until it was stopped early last year," he explains.

Molina also says higher management dictated the manner of payment. At first, the payment was initially credited to the payroll system of the branch heads in another bank. But this was stopped because of tax implications.

The next scheme was to issue a manager's check by the head office's accounting section in the name of the branch head. The funds were tagged "for business development and were charged to representation expense account."

But the BSP noticed the payments, Molina says. To allay suspicion, the bank changed its procedure. Now it is the bank branches themselves that issue the checks in the name of the branch head.

When the BSP got wind of this scheme, he adds, the PVB opened a dummy savings deposit account where the amounts requested for the additional interest are credited and withdrawn.

Molina says the alleged discretionary fund kept by the PVB in the United Coconut Planters Bank account identified during a BSP inquiry in 1999 and 2000 is the source of the additional interest.

"(But) you know what that is?" De Ocampo points out. "That is a private fund" consisting of directors' allowances.

Under the rules, the PVB board of directors is entitled to 10 percent of the bank's net profit. But De Ocampo says that instead of getting the full amount, the directors get only half, or 5 percent of net. That money is "now owned by the board of directors, but not the bank."

Official reactions

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes reacted to the disclosure of alleged anomalies in the VFP and the PVB by ordering De Ocampo to submit "a full, complete and itemized report of receipts and expenditures of the federation during the past years."

In a statement released to the media, Reyes said he actually issued the order on April 13, or more than a month before the INQUIRER broke the story.

Reyes also said the Department of National Defense had "supervisory powers previously not exercised over the VFP." He said that "over the decades, the DND has not exercised these powers over the VFP."

At the Senate, a former Armed Forces chief of staff offered to mediate the row between Crevo and De Ocampo's group.

"There is too much at stake if the veterans' dispute remains unsolved," Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said. "If this is left unresolved, the efficient management of the PVB, which is the country's most liquid bank, could be adversely affected."

Biazon, vice chair of the Senate committee on national defense and security and a former Marine general, added that "it is to the best interest of the nation and the old warriors who are in the twilight of their lives that this controversy be resolved as soon as possible." ***With a report from Rocky Nazareno***

'Bank chair has no moral authority'

ON THE DAY Edel Molina (not his real name) was to receive an award for topping a Philippine Veterans Bank internal sales competition, the weather was most foul.

"The weather along the way was not good," wrote the former bank official. "There were heavy rains, thunder and lightning. I thought a storm was in the offing."

There was such a storm, but it was not the kind Molina expected.

Instead of being presented an award, he was subjected to an unscheduled audit that lasted for more than five hours, at the end of which he was ordered relieved effective immediately.

His crime: He had asked top management to audit two of his staff members who he claimed embezzled P800,000 from the branch in 2001.

Molina was a senior branch management official at the PVB for more than two years.

In a recounting of events between June and December 2001 that he submitted to the INQUIRER, he said: "It was a nightmare that after the sacrifice and hard work I gave to the PVB, (the) newly hired senior officers . . . conspired to ease me out because I (reported) an anomaly and (fought) for my principles."

He said he was suspended and ultimately forced to resign, because the audit team charged him with misrepresenting existing funds as "new and fresh funds."

Molina accused the audit team of "unprofessional, unethical conduct, malicious intention, incompetence and ignorance in handling the official audit."

"It is my belief and understanding that Col. Emmanuel De Ocampo (the PVB chair) has lost his moral authority to govern or manage the organizations related to veterans organizations," he added. ***John Nery in Manila; Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Gov't peace . . .

From page A1

jected Gonzales' offer.

"He has not reported to us (panel). He has not told us the result of their back channeling effort. But we learned that he was rejected by the NDF," Bello said.

The formal negotiations between the government and the NDF were suspended last June after the New People's Army, the military arm of the Communist Party of the Philippines, assassinated Cagayan Gov. Rodolfo Aguinaldo.

Bello said he knew nothing about what Gonzales had offered the NDF.

"I received a letter from Mr. Jalandoni that he could not accept the proposal of Gonzales. I am sorry but I was not also given the detail," he added.

Bello said he had nothing against Gonzales and the back channeling talks. "But there should have been coordination," he said.

Bello admitted that he had questions about the status of his panel in view of the back channeling talks.

He said the panel was clarified of its status after a meeting with Ms Macapagal last week.

Bello said the President had told the panel that formal peace talks remained suspended while the back channel talks were being conducted.

After the meeting with the President, Bello said, the panel was assured that there would be close coordination between the two teams.

Eduardo Ermita, presidential adviser on the peace process, said he arranged the meeting with Ms Macapagal so Gonzales could inform Bello of the progress in the back channel talks.

While the talks are in progress, Ermita will act as mediator between the formal panel and the back channel team.

Bello said he expected Gonzales to be sidelined once the formal talks resumes. "The moment there is a formal resumption of the peace talks, only the panel will go (to Norway)," he said.

Norway has agreed to host and facilitate the peace talks.

Ermita said Gonzales took over the negotiations because he had contacts with Norwegian authorities.

Gonzales also in MILF talks

Gonzales also sidelined Dureza in the talks with the MILF whose 30-year-old rebellion prompted the Estrada-led government to launch an all-out war in 1999.

The MILF and the government signed two "instruments of peace" in Malaysia on May 6-7.

While Dureza's MILF counterpart, Al Haj Murad Ebrahim, affixed his signature to the two documents for a joint security and rehabilitation efforts, the government was represented by Gonzales and Ermita.

Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Piñol said it appeared that people from Luzon were the ones deciding the fate of Mindanaoans, referring to Gonzales and Ermita who are not from Mindanao, unlike Dureza, a former Davao representative.

Ghazali Jaafar, MILF vice chair for political affairs, said that Dureza was aware of the signed agreements and that he was supporting it. "He (Dureza) finds it acceptable."

Despite Jaafar's claim of Dureza's all-out support to the joint accord, the government chief peace negotiator could not be reached for comment.

No mandate

Michael Mastura, a former Maguindanao representative and now working as MILF's technical adviser, said the MILF had to sideline Dureza because he lacked the mandate.

"He (Dureza) told us (MILF) that he is not authorized to commit (something)," said Mastura, adding that it was one of the reasons the talks with the government had to be suspended.

"We cannot continue dealing with someone who is not authorized to commit," Mastura said.

Amid howls of protest from some senators, congressmen and local officials in Mindanao, he assured the public that the signed agreements were "clear and transparent."

The critics said the agreements would reenergize the MILF as a rebel force.

Lawyer Musib Buat, one of the MILF signatories to the agreements, said even without Dureza, whoever was authorized by the President to enter into a contract was binding for the government.

In the case of the MILF, the Central Committee gives the authority, according to Buat.

Jaafar said Dureza was expected to attend in Cotabato City starting today a three-day training seminar for government and MILF members who will compose a provincial monitoring body.

Each province in Mindanao, where MILF operates, will form a five-member monitoring team (two from the government, two from the MILF and one from the religious sector). ***With a report from Dona Pazzibugan***

After Mikey, GMA's youngest son engaged

From page A1

weds Victoria S. Manotok, also 27.

Last Saturday at sunset while cruising in the presidential yacht, the young Arroyo surprised his girl friend of six years with a diamond engagement ring.

Victoria's engagement ring was the pendant in a set of jewelry owned by the President's grandmother, Irinea Macaraeg. From that set, Dato's elder brother, Pampanga Vice Gov. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, got the four-carat ring for his bride-to-be Angela Montenegro. They will be married on June 24.

The pendant was reset into a ring by Anita Chan.

Named after his maternal grandfather, former President Diosdado Macapagal, Dato is a third year law student at the Ateneo. Victoria, called Kakai by friends, works as a senior associate, Treasury and Capital Markets of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corp. Ltd. She graduated with honors from Ateneo with a degree in AB Management.

She's the daughter of Rufino Luis and Cynthia Manotok. Her father is managing director of Ayala Corp. and member of its management committee.

Dato has invariably been described in the press as the quiet, more retiring of the Arroyo children. With the marriage of the presidential sons, the President and her husband would have only daughter Luli in the family hearth.

An Open Letter

Mr. Pantaleon Alvarez: Your Resignation Is Long Overdue.

Spare President Macapagal-Arroyo the Unwanted Role of Answering for Your Dismal Performance.

Mr. Alvarez: If you have to perform one patriotic act (assuming such a virtue is not alien to you), hand in your resignation now.

You will spare the President the embarrassment of keeping one who has successfully demeaned the office of the Transportation Secretary. And you will lift from the shoulders of our suffering people the burden of leadership that has earned the distinction of corruption and ineptitude.

☐ *Your resignation will save precious human lives.* There should not be a repeat of the disastrous sinking of MT Nilode which sank, killing 19 and almost killing 70 more. The Philippine Coast Guard, which is under your leadership, has been accused of negligence by Gov. Rogelio Espina of Biliran. By command responsibility, you stand charged for this costly ineptitude.

☐ *Your quitting will save a multi-million dollar loan from going to waste.* We refer to the Third Airports Development Project — vital to the building of airports in Cotabato, Butuan and Dipolog. The ADB-led consortium, which earmarked P200 million for this project has noted suspicious disqualifications and revisions. Shall we lose this million-dollar soft loan — and this project for Mindanao?

☐ *Giving up your job will save thousands of jobs of airport workers and spare our air travellers a heavy burden.* DOTC's contract with PIATCO, granting the latter a monopoly, is the most onerous and grossly disadvantageous to the government and our people. And yet you have chosen to protect and defend your Kumpadre, Jeffrey Cheng. Never mind if airport workers lose their jobs and our people are burdened even more.

☐ *Your resignation will save the Manila Airport Authority the embarrassment of prosecuting its very own boss for graft.* The Resident Ombudsman of MIAA has sued you for giving undue advantage to PAIRCARGO in a land-lease case, shunting aside the interest of government for a private interest. What else is new, Mr. Alvarez?

☐ *Your resignation will free many more firms confronted with the unacceptable choice from using Wintrack Builders, your company, or else ..* The distasteful use of power to advance your personal interests must now end. Resign, and order Wintrack to stop using your power over hapless companies and contractors, which include PIATCO and a leading telecommunications firm.

Next issue, we will bring out more about the DOTC/Coast Guard involvement in rice smuggling through Palawan, an act of economic sabotage; more corrupt practices such as the Coast Guard's questionable transaction regarding fire fighting equipment resulting in the destruction of MV Carmel by fire because the responding Coast Guard vessel was not adequately equipped.

We will also expose the highly irregular acquisition of vessels for the Coast Guard in Australia. All these and many more — under the watch of DOTC Sec. Pantaleon Alvarez.

Enough is enough. We invoke an effective and popular battlecry:

Tama na! Sobra na! Palitan na!

To spare yourself the ignominy of being driven away, or rejected by the Commission on Appointments, or being thrown out by no less than the President,

RESIGN NOW!

MIA-NAIA Association of Service Operators

CHAIRMAN'S CUP

Kutitap grabs last semis slot

By Dennis U. Eroa

KUTITAP outlasted John O, 92-84, and entered the semifinals of the PBL Chairman's Cup yesterday at the Pasig Sports Center.

High-leaping Cyrus Baguio and Cebuano pointguard Ryan Dy made the crucial baskets but it was the explosive performance of former University of Manila standout Mark Saquilayan which bailed the Sparklers out of trouble.

Thus, Kutitap, which will carry a 6-5 win-loss slate in the double-round robin semifinals, joined Ateneo-Hapee-Negros Navigation, ICTSI-La Salle, Blu Sun Power and Shark Energy Drink.

The semifinals will start tomorrow with Kutitap battling ICTSI-La Salle (7-4) and Blu (7-4) colliding with sister team Shark Energy Drink (6-5) at the Makati Coliseum.

"We won by the grace of God. This morning, I prayed very hard and told God that I'll submit to his will," said Kutitap mentor Koy Banal, who stressed that his wards are ready to mix it up in the tough semifinals.

The 5-foot-11 Saquilayan was on target throughout. His torrid shooting kept the rallying Juzzers at bay. Saquilayan, Kutitap's sixth man, exploded with 25 points, including five triples, a performance which earned applause from the crowd. With 6-foot-5 Ranidel de Ocampo unable to shake off Kutitap's tight defense in the middle, John O turned to Jerome Barbosa, Jeff Napa and Gilbert Neo for the needed points.

KUTITAP 92—Saquilayan 25, Baguio 16, Dy 12, Salangsang 10, Mercado 9, Gelig 9, Mallari 7, Sison 2, Natividad 0.

JOHN O 84—Neo 17, Napa 17, Barbosa 15, De Ocampo 14, Ferrer 7, Cayabyab 5, Salvador 5, Baguion 2, Santos 2, Olaguer 1, Booker 0, Kiram 0.

Quarters: 16-23, 43-46, 70-66, 92-84.

Foreign athletes get visa

By M.A. Reyes

THE DEPARTMENT of Foreign Affairs yesterday came to the rescue of 50 foreign athletes who earlier failed to get Philippine visas they needed to compete in the PSC-PCSO track and field Grand Prix on May 26 at the Rizal oval.

DFA assistant secretary Belen Anota issued the waivers to the Philippine embassy in Bangkok where the concerned athletes from the Middle East and the former Soviet republics were waiting along with officials of the Asian Amateur Athletics Association officials.

"As of last weekend, these athletes are barred from entering the country," said athletics chief Go Teng Kok, who personally sought the DFA's help yesterday. "Thanks to the DFA, they are all virtually assured of getting their visas."

The Bureau of Immigration has tightened its rules on incoming foreigners in keeping with the worldwide anti-terrorist campaign.

But the DFA decision came just on time because the athletes are set to compete in the 4As second leg today in Bangkok before flying to Manila tomorrow for the Manila leg.

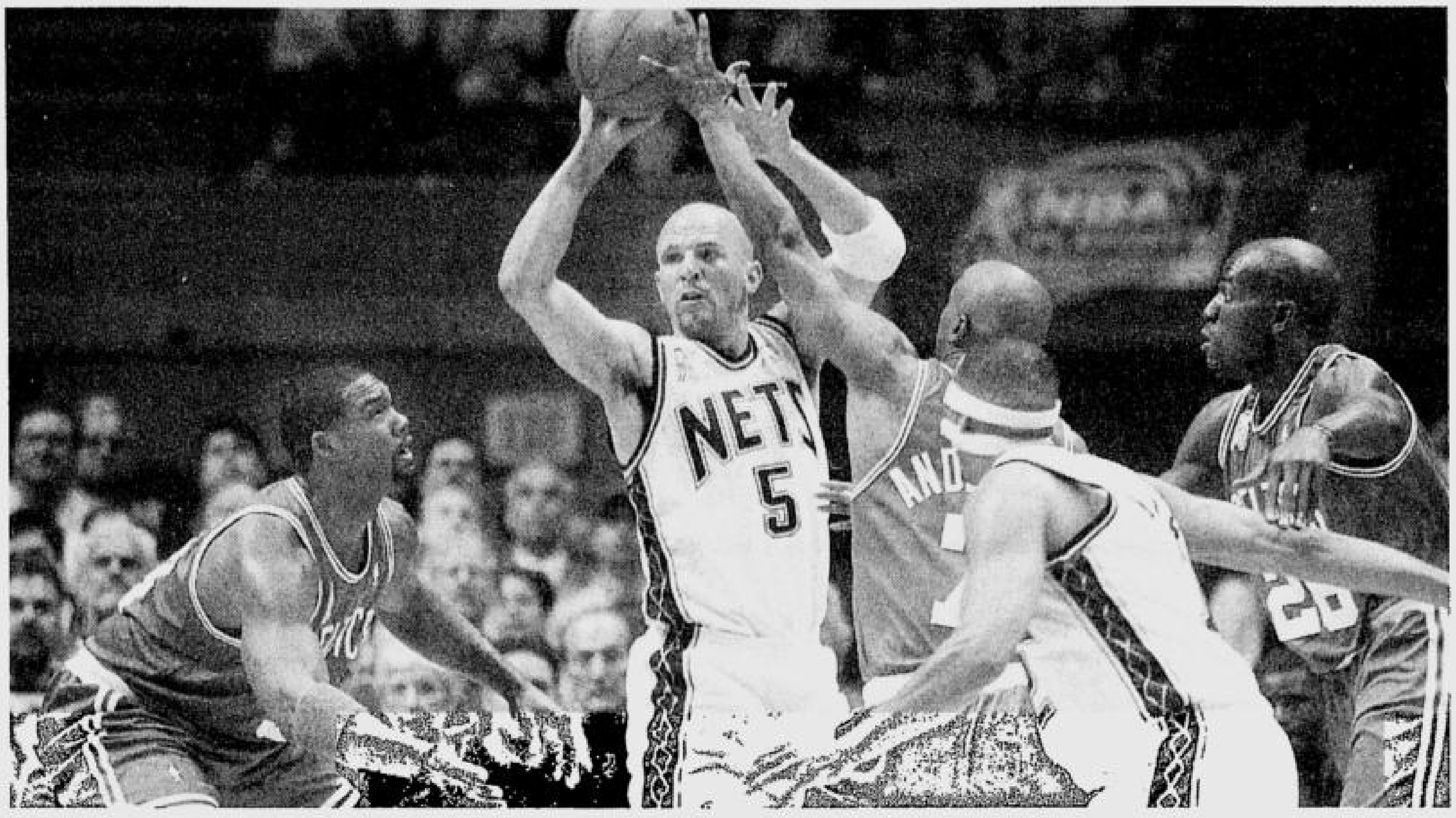
"We have averted a humiliation among our Asian neighbors because it would surely reflect on us if we failed to allow them to compete," said Go. "More so, it would have denied our countrymen a chance to see world-class athletics talents."

Derby starts

COCKFIGHTING aficionados will be treated to big-time derby when the Elorde Cockpit Stadium in Sucat Road, Parañaque plays host to the 6th Battle of Champions" 5-Cock derby starting at 8 p.m. today.

Promoters Johnny Elorde and Amor Ponciano said the derby has a guaranteed prize of P300,000 and an entry fee of P8,800.

Joining this 6th Battle of Champions derby are entries who were declared champions in the previous derbies at the Elorde Cockpit.



OUTNUMBERED BUT NOT OUTFOUGHT
Jason Kidd (No. 5) of New Jersey looks unperturbed against three Celtics, scoring a triple-double in leading the Nets to a 104-97 in Game 1 of their Eastern Conference Finals. AFP

Nets down Boston in Eastern Game 1

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey —The New Jersey Nets showed why they're the No. 1 team in the East.

Picking apart Boston's vaunted defense with surprising ease, the Nets beat Boston 104-97 Sunday night in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference finals.

From shooting percentages to rebounding to the ability to dictate the tempo, the Nets dominated the Celtics in nearly every facet of the game. Most important was the way they produced easy baskets - 19 of them layups or dunks.

"We didn't even play a lick of defense all night," Boston's Paul Pierce said.

Pierce stated before the series that the Nets had no one who could defend him. What Pierce didn't mention was that something else–foul trouble–could stop him.

Pierce scored 14 points in the first quarter but was a non-factor offensively the rest of the way. He picked up his third and fourth fouls in a 16-second span early in the third quarter, and the Nets went on an 18-8 run after he went to the bench.

Pierce didn't score again until 8:21 remained in the game. By then, the Nets had built their lead as high as 17 and were able to withstand a rally that got the Celtics within six with under 2 minutes left.

Jason Kidd finished with 18 points, 13 rebounds and 11 assists, getting the triple-double with 3:53 left when he fed Keith Van Horn for a jumper that gave the Nets a 97-86 lead.

Kerry Kittles, Todd MacCulloch and Van Horn scored 14 apiece, and seven Nets reached double figures.

Mandaluyong hosts Ucap special meet

THE UNITED Cockers Association of the Philippines' (Ucap) Cocker of the Year 2002 race heats up anew with the staging of a special 5-cock, one-day derby today at the Mandaluyong Coliseum. Sponsors are Sagupaan Super Feeds and Washout Shampoo of Lakpue Drug Inc.

This event is one of two remaining Ucap derbies before the Cocker of the Year winner is finally known. The other one is the much-awaited Mandaluyong 9-Cock International Derby second leg on June 4, 6 and 8 to be hosted by OPMI president Vic Yu and Ramon Mansenares.

Locked in a tight battle for the coveted plum are *sabong* idol Patrick Antonio (Sagupaan Hammer, 55.5 points); engineer Sonny Lagon and Mayor Joel Brillantes (Blue Blade JBB, 54.5); Pol Estrellado (PE San Pablo Hammer, 52.5); Ucap president Buth Macasaet (BJ Greenwood, 48); former ambassador Danding Cojuangco (Bumble Bee Balbina, 48); newcomer Benjie Lim and Wacky Salud (47.5); OPMI president Vic Yu (Sir Vincent, 46); sportsman Raymond Velayo (Arnis Master, 45.5) and V. Yu (King Boxer, 45.5).

Meanwhile, the Flyover 5-Cock Derby, to be hosted by Manila sportsman Bobby Wong, is set on Thursday. Submission of weights is tomorrow from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. Interested parties may contact 531-4003, 531-4005, 535-2341 and 534-4110.

Serena rates Rome title highly

WILLIAMS

ROME—Serena Williams won the first claycourt title of her career on Sunday when she took revenge on Justine Henin with a hard-fought 7-6 6-4 victory in the Italian Open final.

Williams, who lost to Henin a week ago at the German Open in Berlin, bounced around the court in delight after sealing her triumph, punching her fist towards her sister Venus and mother Oracene in the stands.

The American received a rousing cheer from the Foro Italico crowd when she addressed them in Italian, thanking them for their support throughout the week.

Afterwards she acknowledged the victory as one of her best ever wins.

"For me it's really high up there because a lot of people insist I can't play on clay even though I kind of grew up on it," Williams said.

"It makes me feel really good, especially going into Roland Garros. I'm definitely looking forward to doing well there."

Williams had to work hard for her win, though, needing six set points to put Henin away in the first set, which took an hour and nine minutes.

Henin saved three set points at 4-5 down and two more in the tiebreaker before a netted backhand from the Belgian finally gave Williams the advantage. **AP**

Sampras, Roddick lose

DUESSELDORF, Germany —Pete Sampras and Andy Roddick each lost in three sets and the United States was beaten by France 3-0 at the World Team Championships on Sunday. Sampras was beaten 7-6 (3), 2-6, 7-6 (2) by Nicolas Escude, and Roddick lost 3-6, 6-4, 6-3 to Arnaud Clement.

Cuervo wins, advances versus Villarete

KAESER Cuervo defeated Westly Hontiveros, 6-0, 6-4, yesterday to advance in the boys' 14-under second round against top seed Raymond Villarete in the Toby's-Philta Age Group Tennis Challenge at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

In other matches, Jarid Manduriao outplayed Jan Joseph Asilo, 6-3, 6-1, to advance against No. 4 Pablo Olivarez II while Niko Katigbak clobbered Marlo Manalo, 6-1, 6-0, to advance against No. 6 Russell Arcilla Jr.

Also gaining second-round berths were Leyan Moncera, Gerard Pinili, Jonel Paulino, Rai Marie Padigos, Jose Lorenzo Opulencia, Dan Jeffrey Onate, Ben Pacardo, Ryan Daza, Francis Onate, Gerard Michael Ngo, Mark Alcachupas, Jordan Echague and Roy Lito Villafuerte.

In the unisex 10-under class, Christian Villanueva outclassed Alberto Villamor, 6-0, 6-1, to advance against top seed Bernardine Sison.

Diego Alvarez struggled past Angelo Joseph Rivero, 6-4, 7-5, to advance agaisnt No. 3 Akio Sy; Joseph Suyosa defeated Dheo Talatayod, 6-4, 7-5, to advance against No. 4 Martina Guba and Raffy Delavin downed Nicolo Kaimo Tayag, 6-1, 6-2, to advance against No. 5 Francisco Cabrera.

Kidd stuff

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

NOW I believe. Jason Kidd was robbed of the Most Valuable Player Award in the NBA.

I saw the kid play yesterday. I mean, I really saw him play an entire NBA game. Shucks! This kid's one of a kind. Not flashy. Very unJordan-like. No kid stuff in his arsenal.

Kidd just dishes it out things in business-like fashion. No frills. Just a day in the office.

Before yesterday, I had wondered aloud how New Jersey managed to get this far.

I wonder no more. The wonder kid is for real.

Kidd is definitely the heart and soul of New Jersey, the team made famous by a great player of another era—Julius "Doctor J" Erving. Kidd finished with 18 points, 13 rebounds and 11 assists in powering the Nets to a 104-97 victory yesterday over the Boston Celtics in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference Finals.

Jordan made winning shots almost all his basketball life in skywalking fashion.

Kidd will make shots, grab rebounds and issue assists—all with the ease of one combing his hair.

Unlike Jordan, or Kobe Bryant at the moment, Kidd is not made of elastic material.

While Jordan/Bryant can hang-glide into the hoop, Kidd will elect to shoot straight as a rod. Not the style, just the result.

Jordan and Bryant can singlehandedly airlift their respective teams to victory. Kidd, like an orchestra conductor, will choose to involve his teammates in securing the symphony for victory.

"There's more than one guy who can put the ball in the basket, and being unselfish and trying to play the right way—that has been our motto the whole season," Kidd said.

This early, for as long as Kidd is healthy, I will predict that New Jersey will proceed to the NBA Finals.

I'm not kidding.

■

CONDOLENCE. Tia Celing (Celedonia Sison Ramos) died in her sleep yesterday. She was 87. She was the mother of my childhood buddy, Mike. Surviving Tia Celing, aside from Pareng Mike, are her children Atchie Melba (based in Los Angeles), Kuya Raffy (based in Iligan City) and Pareng Rudy, children-in-law and grandchildren (about a dozen, I guess). She was more than family to me, a mahjongg-mate of my departed mother. Her secret to longevity? "Two beers every night," she said. Tia Celing smoked her Bataan Matamis with the lighted end of the ciggie in her mouth. That was a wonder that I carried from childhood to college. Tia Celing's remains lie at the family residence at Blk. 21, Lot 20, Area East, Barangay Queen's Row, Molino, Bacoor, Cavite.

RP karatekas take 3 golds

MLADA BOLESLAV, Czech Republic—Filipino karatekas, led by Ian George Jereos, bagged three gold medals Sunday to finish fourth overall in the prestigious VII Czech Republic Karate Open championships here.

Jereos whipped top Yugoslavian kata player Radojeie Milos in the men's finals after hurdling his earlier rivals from Lithuania, Germany, Poland and San Marino.

Cherli Tugday and Nestor Halili produced the two other RP golds in the kumite 60-kilogram and 53-kg events, respectively.

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

BASKETBALL: NBA Playoffs Conference Finals – LA vs Sacramento, Game 2 at 9:30 a.m. (r – 9:30 p.m.) on ESPN
GOLF: PGA Mastercard Colonial, Second Round at 2 p.m. (r) on Star Sports
LPGA Chick Fil-A Charity Championship, Second Round at 5 p.m. on Star Sports
TENNIS: Masters Series (Hamburg), Men's Final at 7 a.m. (r), Highlights at 7 p.m. on Star Sports
BASEBALL: MLB - Pittsburgh Pirates vs Houston Astros at 12:30 p.m. (r) on ESPN
BADMINTON: Thomas and Uber Cup 2002 Semifinals, Afternoon Session at 10 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1989, Eddie Bagtas shot a 68 to post a four-stroke victory over Rod Cuello in the Uratex Open at the Veterans course.

GOLF CLUB AWARDS
PLDT myDSL will support the 4th Golf Club Awards this year. The affair, initiated by the Philippine Daily Inquirer and GG&A Club shares, honors golf clubs that excel in specific categories. Present at the contract signing are (seated, from left) INQUIRER Classified Division Head Donald Lim, INQUIRER SVP for Sales and Marketing Rene Reinoso, PLDT VP-Marketing Services Raul S. Alvarez and GG&A Managing Director Eduardo Galvez. Witnesses are (standing, from left) INQUIRER Golf Monthly Editor Jong Arcano, Inquirer Marketing Officer Hazel Soriaga, PLDT Marketing Assistant Sharlyn Lim and GG&A Marketing Manager Julius Gomez. The awarding ceremonies will be held on June 7 at the Cats of New World Renaissance Hotel, Makati City. For other inquiries, call 8401761 loc. 113.

Delariarte starts hot; Que falters

By Jong Arcano

JEROME Delariarte seized the early lead with a three-under-par 69 even as favorite Angelo Que struggled yesterday in the Philippine amateur golf championship's qualifying stage.

The 23-year-old Delariarte picked up an eagle and two birdies on the four par-5s of the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club's Faldo course and finished two strokes ahead of national training pool teammate Marlon Dizon.

Dizon was the only other player to break par with a 71 as intermittent downpour bothered the field.

Que was far off the lead with a mediocre 77 start that put him in a tie for 12th, Que's place in tomorrow's 32-man match play was not at all threatened.

It wasn't the case for Juvic Pagunsan, another of the seeded bets in the tourney sponsored by DHL Philippines and Wide Wide World Express. The slump continued for Pagunsan as the Southeast Asian Games champ scored only an 81 and was tied for 29th and 32nd spots.

"It's not too important to get a good score but it's nice to be in a more secure position. We're trying to conserve our energy for the tougher rounds," said Delariarte.

Delariarte spiked his round with an eagle on the par-4 fourth, a nifty 9-iron chip from 15-yards at greenside.

Cookie La'O, who had topped the eliminations of this event thrice in the last five years, was in a position to do that again with his 73 giving him a share of third with former winner Artemio Murakami, ex-pro Dave Hernandez and Godofredo Sinfuego.

Nine of the 65 starters were cut yesterday due to a rule that eliminates players who fail to break 90.

SPORTSWATCH

Buhain adds P10M to Palaro fund

THE PHILIPPINE Sports Commission gave P10 million more to Department of Education regional directors for the Palarong Pambansa set to start June 3 in Naga City. "Since we are not sending delegations to the Arafura Games and the Summer Youth Training Camp has also been cancelled, the PSC has enough funds to give in to the regional directors' request," said Chair Eric Buhain of the PSC. He said President Macapagal-Arroyo will be available on June 3. Buhain had earlier pledged P200,000 in additional funds to each of the 16 delegations apart from the P30 million they already got for their food, uniforms transportation and operational expenses.

Swimfest draws 400 kids nationwide

AROUND 400 swimmers took part in the recent second Ceelin swimming festival at the St. Benedict College swimming pool in Alabang. Teams from as far as Gen. Santos, Davao City, Iloilo, Dagupan, Olongapo, Lucena, Laguna, Batangas and Cavite saw action in the 12-and-under tournament sanctioned by the Philippine Amateur Swimming Association. "We are happy that Ceelin has been able to introduce competitive swimming to the youth under a fun environment where they have the chance to excel," said Ceelin product manager Joey Peralta. Meet organizer Rai Rosario said: "If we really want to help get swimming back on its feet and do well again in international competitions, we need more age-group programs like this." Rosario, who is also the Pasa secretary general, said they are looking forward to an even bigger field in the Ceelin swimfest next year.

Aytona to mark birthday with golf tilt

PHILIPPINE American Golf Association International president Jimmy Senarosa announced yesterday that Paga International will hold its monthly tournament at Valley on May 23, the 84th birthday of Sen. Dominador Aytona. The tournament is also the 1st Aytona Cup, according to Viady Ponce de Leon, past president of Paga and tournament director of the Aytona Cup. Shotgun tee off time is at 8 a.m. and participants are encouraged to register from 7 to 7:30 a.m.

FVR golfest at Eagle Ridge on May 25

IT'S all systems go for the Fourth FVR-Ramos Peace and Development Cup on May 25 at Eagle Ridge in General Trias, Cavite. Tournament chair Tomas Alcantara said the event would raise funds for the projects of the FVR-RPDEV. Tee off time is 7:30 a.m. Among those invited are Myanmar Ambassador U Tin Thun, Sen. Rene Cayetano, Rep. Magtanggol Gunigundo, DOTC Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez and Taiwan Economic and Cultural Office Ambassador Bernard Lo. ICTSI, La Panday Foods, Petron Corporation, and Phinma Group are the major sponsors, while Dresdner Bank AG, Leighton Contractors (Phils.) Inc., F. F. Cruz & Co., Inc., Fortune Life Insurance and RCBC are among the hole sponsors.

Sta. Elena hosts PSC vs PSA today

THE PHILIPPINE Sports Commission, in cooperation with the Philippine Sportswriters Association and Adidas Philippines-Taylor Made, will stage the 2002 PSC-PSA Goodwill Golf Cup today at Sta. Elena in Sta. Rosa, Laguna. "The Goodwill Golf Cup is primarily aimed at promoting unity and camaraderie among members of the local sports community," said PSC chair Eric R. Buhain. "We hope to stage the event yearly to further solidify cooperation and partnership." Participating in the event are officials from the PSC, editors and scribes from the PSA and PSC-POC Media Group, and management staff of Adidas Philippines-Taylor Made. Also invited are officials from the Philippine Olympic Committee. Team PSC, led by chair Eric R. Buhain and commissioners William Ramirez, Leon Montemayor, and Cynthia Carrion, will see action against the POC, headed by National Golf Association of the Philippines president Rod Feliciano and NGAP secretary general Benny Gopez, Table Tennis Association of the Philippines president Vic Balbuena, Chuck Buenaventura of gymnastics, Julian Camacho of wushu and Freddie Jalasco. Adidas-Taylor Made will be led by Jon Alonte.

Medvil, Dipolog dispute football title

KORONADAL CITY—Highly rated Medvil Football Club of Davao City and lightly regarded Dipolog City scored contrasting victories yesterday to move into the finals of the PGMA Sports for Peace "Double D" All-Mindanao Football Cup at the sports complex here. Medvil banked on right winger Nelson Chavez's two goals to blank arch rival Iligan City while Dipolog City leaned on Jovanie Villagracia's hat-trick to shock Misamis Oriental, 3-2, in extra time and earn its first-ever Mindanao Cup title shot.

WOMEN'S PUBLIC LINKS

Chua qualifies for US tourney

FILIPINA Heidi Chua qualified for the US Women's Public Links to be held June 18-23 in Redmond, Oregon.

The tournament is the second biggest amateur event in the US, next to the US Women's Amateur Open.

Chua played remarkably in the recent sectionals in Hawaii where 40 girls competed for three spots.

"I shot 74 and tied for the third spot with two other golfers. We went on a playoff. I birdied the third hole sticking my shot to about a foot to get the remaining spot," Chua said.

She is now preparing hard for the US Women's Public Links. "It was quite a thrill to be able to qualify to such a big event. This is the second time I tried. Last year, I missed it by a stroke," Chua said.

Chua, part of the national team that will see action in the Busan Asian Games in September, is also aiming to qualify for the US Open in Phoenix. She'll compete in five more tournaments before returning home in August.

Exposed to the intense heat of the sun practically every day, Chua needs adequate eye protection.

"Playing with bad eye protection, or even worse, no eye-protection can leave me with squinting all day and terrible headaches afterwards," Chua said, "so having the best possible eyewear for each round is vital."

This 25-year-old Chua loves Kipling's mask type sunglasses for their being "very stylish, up-to-date and hip" while still being comfortable and light. "I'm very conscious about looking good, because when I know I look my best, I feel more confident about what I'm doing," she said.

CHUA sets sights on US campaign.

Price rules Colonial, breaks four-year slump

FORT WORTH, Texas—Nick Price no longer has to doubt himself. He can still win on the PGA Tour, and he can do it in a big way.

Making big shots late after looking vulnerable, Price shot a 3-under 67 Sunday in the Colonial for his first victory in four years.

"It feels like it's been 10 years. I didn't think this day was going to come," Price said. "That self-doubt has been cast away now. There's not pressure any more on me to win because I've proven it to myself."

The 45-year-old player from Zimbabwe finished at 13-under 267, five strokes ahead of David Toms and Kenny Perry.

Price also took a five-stroke lead into the round, but started the back nine just two ahead of Perry and Toms. Price regained control with birdies on Nos. 11, 12 and 14, while his closest competitors gave up strokes. **AP**

Moodie prevails

NORTH AUGUSTA, South Carolina—Scotland's Janice Moodie knew she belonged with the best in the game before beating Annika Sorenstam and Laura Davies in the Asahi Ryokuken International. Now, everyone else knows, too.

"Obviously, you're going to be intimidated playing with the best women's golfer in the world and Laura's a great player," said Moodie, who shot a steady 2-under 70 to win her second LPGA title Sunday. "But no, I'm not. I wouldn't be here if I were intimidated."

Woods only 1 down

HEIDELBERG, Germany—Tiger Woods carded a 64 to move within one stroke of leader Colin Montgomerie after three rounds of the Deutsche Bank-SAP Open on Sunday (Monday in Manila).

Montgomerie had a 65 for a 17-under total of 199 but concedes that a back injury won't help his struggle to hold the Woods momentum in Monday's final round.

Woods made a spectacular start and played a near-perfect ball-striking round, yet said it contained not a single perfect shot.

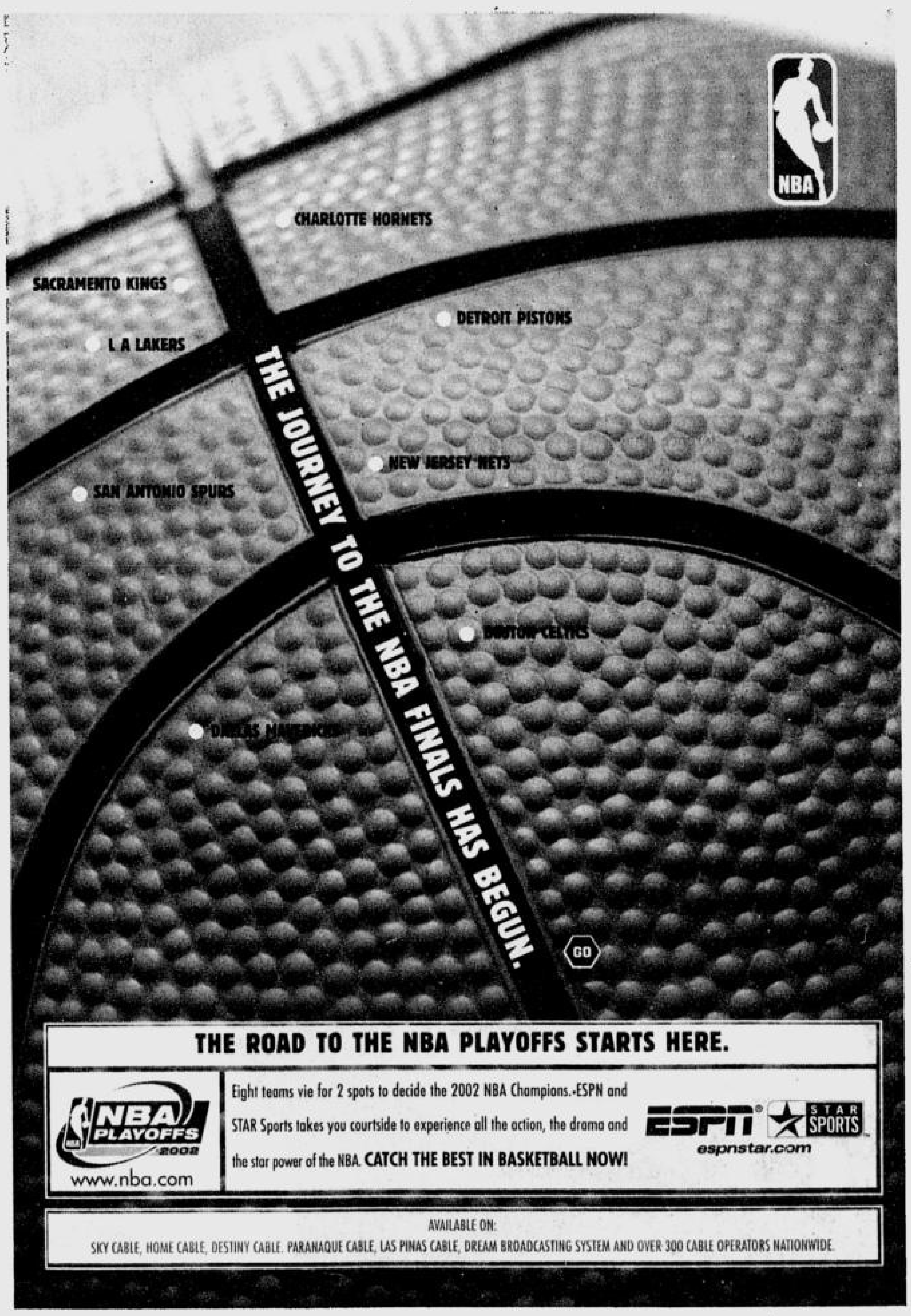
Two behind starting the round, the defending champion and Masters titlist eagled the opening hole and birdied three of the next four to snatch the lead before Montgomerie, playing behind him, reclaimed it late in the day.

Woods finished the round on 200 with young Englishman Justin Rose third on 202 after a 66.

Woods, who has now carded six rounds in a row under 70, called it one of his best ball-striking rounds in some time.

"It's been a while since I hit the ball like that. I haven't really been able to shape each and every shot but today was one of those days," he said.

But how many perfect shots did it contain? he was asked. **AP**



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SPORTS

Editor **Al S. Mendoza** ◉ *Assistant Editor* **Edwin M. Villanueva**

Baseball results

AMERICAN LEAGUE—Yankees 3, Twins 0; Red Sox 3, Mariners 2; Blue Jays 11, Athletics 0; Royals 5, Indians 4; Devil Rays 4, Orioles 0; Angels 6, White Sox 1; Tigers 2, Rangers 1.

NATIONAL LEAGUE—Cubs 5, Brewers 4; Dodgers 10, Expos 1; Braves 2, Rockies 1; Cardinals 10, Reds 1; Phillies 4, Diamondbacks 3; Padres 4, Mets 3; Marlins 4, Giants 2.

AP

Hotdogs, Aces collide in crucial Game 5 today

GAME TODAY *(Araneta Coliseum)*
6:30 p.m.—Purefoods vs Alaska

Game 1—Alaska d. Purefoods, 79-73
Game 2—Alaska d. Purefoods, 106-102 (2OT)
Game 3—Purefoods d. Alaska, 80-66
Game 4—Purefoods d. Alaska, 82-76

By June Navarro

PUREFOODS showed it is capable of accomplishing two consecutive victories against Alaska.

The Hotdogs, believing they could repeat the act and win the crown, take on the Alaska Aces in a pivotal Game 5 of the PBA Samsung Governors Cup Finals tonight at the Araneta Coliseum.

After the best-of-seven series was reduced to a race-to-two affair, the Hotdogs now have the momentum after they repulsed the Aces in Games 3 (80-66) and 4 (82-76) to make it 2-all.

"Anything can still happen but with the confidence exuded by the players, it shows a lot of promise that we could go all the way and clinch the title," said Purefoods coach Ryan Gregorio.

That would line the Hotdogs up as the first team in 20 years to climb from a 0-2 deficit in a best-of-seven Finals and capture the championship. Toyota achieved the feat against San Miguel Beer in 1982.

The 30-year-old Gregorio, a former UP Maroon, would also be the third youngest coach to win a title in the league after Tommy Manotoc and Chot Reyes.

Manotoc was 29 years old when he steered Utex to the 1978 Open Conference title against Crispa while Reyes, bearing the same age, led Coney Island to the 1993 All-Filipino Cup title opposite San Miguel Beer.

Derrick Brown, runaway winner of the Best Import of the conference award, holds the key in bringing Gregorio and the Hotdogs to the promised land.

Brown went two points short of equalizing his career-best 48 points when he toyed with the Aces in Game 4.

BEST Import Derrick Brown of Purefoods (right) hits an easy layup against Alaska's Ron Riley in Game 4 of their best-of-seven affair. The Hotdogs triumphed, 82-76, to knot the series at 2-all. ROMY HOMILLADA

FEU-Adamson duel set

FAR Eastern University and Adamson beat their respective rivals Sunday to arrange a showdown for the women's title in the 8th Fr. Martin Cup basketball tournament at the UE gym.

The Lady Tams outsteadied College of St. Benilde, 69-60, while the Adamson belles crushed University of Asia and Pacific, 70-35, to rule the elimination round with identical 5-1 records.

Defending champion FEU, reigning NCAA titlist San Sebastian and University of the Philippines also triumphed to clinch semifinal slots in the men's division of the tourney supported by Pagcor.

The Tamaraws subdued St. Benilde, 75-67, to improve their Group B slate to 6-1 while the Stags beat National University, 76-66, for a frontrunning 5-0 card in Group C. The Maroons nipped Ateneo A, 70-68, to finalize their Group A record at 5-1.

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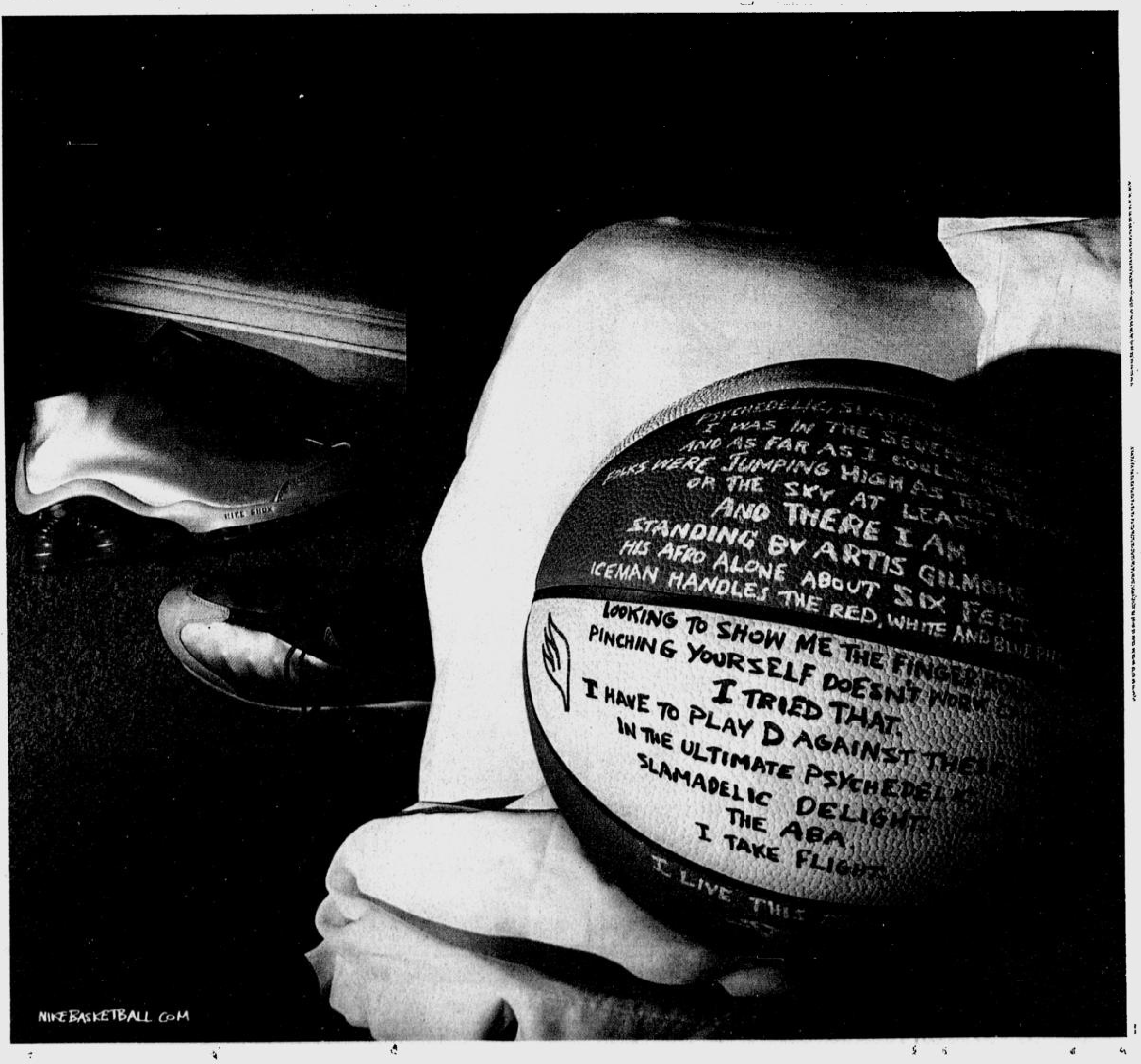
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I killed, 5 hurt in police shootout /A22

METRO

Editor Louie C. Camino

Fare hike 'inevitable'

By Agnes E. Donato

TRANSPORT groups yesterday warned of fare increases following another price increase by oil companies last week.

Claire de la Fuente, president of the Integrated Metro Bus Operators Association (Imboa), said a fare increase is "inevitable" if the pump price of diesel reached P15.

Medardo Roda, president of the Pinagkaisang Samahan ng mga Tsuper at Operator Nationwide (Piston), said his group would be meeting with other transport groups when oil companies carry out their plan to raise prices by 52 centavos before the end of the month.

Roda said Piston and the Federation of Jeepney Operators and Drivers Associations of the Philippines (Fejodap) have yet to discuss and agree on how much fare increase they would seek.

In an interview in March, Roda told

FARE/A22

Malonzo can't defend his decision, says former ally

CALOOCAN City Mayor Rey Malonzo yesterday continued to avoid talking about his alleged decision to field his common-law wife as mayoral candidate in 2004, prompting his former ally, District II Rep. Edgar Erice, to say the evasion was an "admission of something."

Malonzo refused to comment when the INQUIRER called him, although he took the call even when he was in a close-door meeting.

"I have no comment," the mayor said in Filipino. "I have so much work to do. We have to do double time because there are so many things we have to attend to."

MALONZO /A22

Fish port Petron goes to court

By Tina Santos

THE GIANT oil company Petron Corp. in the Navotas Fish Port complex has gone to court after its deadline for paying the municipal government P10 million in back taxes lapsed yesterday.

"Petron is questioning our authority to collect taxes from them, saying the municipal

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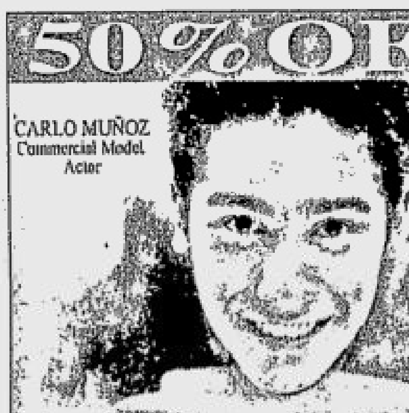

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Sex scandals in the Church not new

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

SEX scandals involving Catholic priests are nothing new. The Catholic Church, the oldest Christian organization dating back to St. Peter, has been dogged by scandals throughout its existence.

A church run by human beings is not perfect. But the Catholic Church as an organization tries to be as near perfect as it can be.

It's a good thing those scandals are now out in the open. Disclosure can result in catharsis.

* * *

Fr. James Reuter is right: A stronger Catholic Church will emerge after the disclosure of the sex scandals.

There are some bad priests. But the majority of the priests are good or trying their best to be good.

Let's give them a chance. It's very hard to be a priest.

* * *

There was only one Catholic Church before the Great Schism in Europe in the 16th century. The Schism gave birth to Protestantism.

In 1515, Martin Luther, a German priest, separated from the Catholic faith because he saw the sins being committed by his superiors.

At that time, some cardinals and even the Pope were selling indulgences to European royalty and the business class. These two classes could afford to bribe the clergy in order for them to go "straight to Heaven."

* * *

Indulgences are remissions of punishment. An indulgence is equivalent to a commutation of a prison sentence.

Catholics believe that people who commit venial (small) sins pay for those sins in Purgatory, a halfway house to Heaven. Big sinners go to Hell, according to the Christian faith.

Indulgences, so the clergy at the time preached to the faithful, would shorten one's stay in Purgatory.

* * *

Luther found repulsive the selling of indulgences by the clergy. He founded the Lutheran church as a result.

But Luther's church, which was also run by human beings, committed practically the same mistakes for which it seceded from the Catholic Church.

So, other Protestant churches were born.

* * *

There was a time when Catholic popes got married and had concubines. Some popes commanded big armies and invaded kingdoms that were considered heathen.

There was also a time when the Church executed or imprisoned members they suspected of being heretics. Execution was through burning at the stakes.

The French and Spanish inquisitions were the most notorious of the lot. They killed more Catholics than the Nazis killed Jews during World War II. Joan of Arc was one of the victims of the French Inquisition.

* * *

Don't you know that our national hero, Dr. Jose Rizal, was sent to his death because of the conspiracy of Spanish friars?

Rizal wrote about the abuses committed by friars in his books "Noli Me Tangere" and "El Filibusterismo" during his time. So, they banded together and accused him of being a traitor.

At that time, the country was a theocracy, a government run by the religious. The Spanish civil government was subservient to the friars. The government did to Rizal what was demanded by friars: they executed him.

* * *

If you see Filipinos who have fine Caucasian features, they could be the descendants of friars. Mrs. Imelda Marcos has unabashedly admitted that her grandfathers were friars.

The Catholic Church in Spain sent to the Philippines many priests who were giving the church problems. The sin committed by most of those priests was violation of the vow of celibacy.

Instead of punishing those priests or defrocking them, the Spanish Catholic church sent them to the Philippines, considered a hardship post.

* * *

The problem priests in the Philippines at that time banded together to form a junta composed of the clergy.

When a governor general did not go with the wishes of the friars, they stormed his official residence and executed him.

That was how much power the Spanish priests had then.

* * *

If you find Jaime Cardinal Sin's poking into the affairs of government distasteful, just consider that the clergy during the Spanish regime were much worse.

At least Cardinal Sin would not possibly storm Malacañang with his subordinate priests and order the execution of its occupant!

Mabait pa niyan si Cardinal Sin.

1 killed, 5 hurt in police shootout

By Philip Tubeza

THE FIESTA in Sta. Cruz, Manila on Sunday turned into a bloody gunplay among policemen, leaving a 29-year-old man dead and injuring five other people, including a 14-year-old boy.

The lone fatality was identified as Ronald T. Reyes, of Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, said Detective Rodolfo Rival, of the Western Police District homicide section.

Injured were Norman D. Tolosa, 54, Richard Tolosa, 28, Manila policeman SPO1 Jayson A. Magbitang, 29, Reinier T. Reyes, 18, and a 14-year-old boy from Tondo.

SPO1 Socrates D. Tolosa, of the Bamban, Tarlac Police, was arrested after the shootout.

Rival said Sunday's incident started when an unidentified man slapped Ryan Nery. Ryan is a son of Jose Nery, a friend of Magbitang, Rival said.

When Ryan told his father about the incident, Magbitang, who was drinking with Jose and two other policemen, stood up, went out, and looked for the man who slapped Ryan, police said.

Unfortunately, Magbitang encountered the group of Reinier and Ronald Reyes on Rizal Avenue near the corner of Tambunting Street in Sta. Cruz.

Gunshots rang out at 8:10 p.m. and Ronald was hit in the chest while Reinier was struck in the head with a hard object.

Ronald was taken to the Chinese General Hospital where he died.

Back at the crime scene, Norman Tolosa tried to talk to Magbitang.

Minutes later, he was seen grappling with the policeman for Magbitang's gun.

SPO1 Tolosa arrived and shot it out with Magbitang.

Magbitang was hit but Norman Tolosa, Matudan, and Richard Tolosa were also hit before Manila policemen arrived.

The injured were also taken to the Chinese General Hospital.

Owners of unredeemed licenses face arrest

By Alcuin Papa

DRIVERS who have failed to redeem their licenses will be issued arrest warrants soon after the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority started to file court cases against the violators starting yesterday.

According to MMDA chair Benjamin Abalos Jr., the agency has started to file cases against at least 800 drivers whose licenses are still with the MMDA.

The drivers have been arrested for various traffic violations and were issued traffic tickets. But they have failed to redeem their licenses with the MMDA within the prescribed 36-hour period.

The drivers were charged in accordance with the traffic violations for which they were apprehended, Abalos said.

The MMDA chair himself started the campaign against the erring drivers when he filed around seven cases before a Pasig court. He did not identify who the drivers were.

In the coming days, the MMDA will file more cases against the drivers, Abalos said.

"I hope this will serve as a lesson to people," Abalos warned. "Please don't wait for the arrest warrants to arrive before redeeming your licenses."

He said he will also coordinate with the Land Transportation Office to make sure drivers with unredeemed licenses will not apply for new ones.

According to MMDA statistics, around 35,000 drivers did not redeem their licenses last year.

For the MMDA, the figure translated to a revenue loss of about P3.5 million.

Abalos insists he heard it right the first time

By Alcuin Papa

THE METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority insisted that the Department of Public Works and Highways did indeed set the repairs on three major bridges next month in time for the opening of classes.

Still apparently peeved with the DPWH, MMDA Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. said in a news conference yesterday that he heard clearly on radio that the repairs of the Tullahan Bridge in Valenzuela, Sevilla Bridge in Mandaluyong and La Huerta Bridge in Parañaque would start on June 30.

"These are all major bridges," he said. "They said on radio it (the repairs) would start June 30. That was the only time I heard about these repairs." Abalos on Friday blew his top at the DPWH over a radio interview, claiming that the MMDA was not informed of the repairs which he said would tie up traffic during the school opening.

He said a traffic scheme for the repairs is already long overdue.

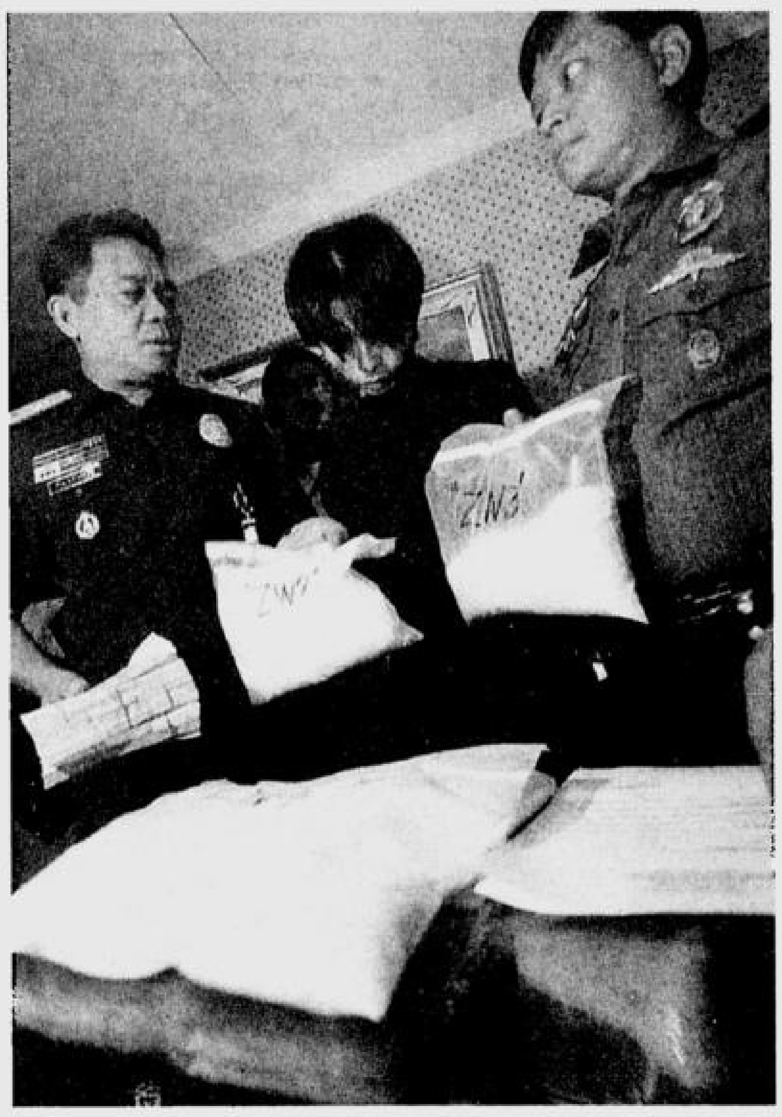
"It's already May and there is still no traffic scheme," he said. "I learned that they (DPWH) are still working on it (traffic scheme)."

Subair Diron, DPWH project manager of Asian Development Bank-funded projects, on Saturday was quoted as saying repairs on the three bridges would start in July. ADB is funding the repairs.

Diron also chided Abalos for being "misinformed" and said the repairs would not affect classes.

He also said the DPWH is working on a traffic scheme but it did not deem it necessary to bring it up with the MMDA this early.

Classes on all levels will open on the first week of June, and traffic is expected to worsen.



SUSPECT Zheng Wu and the shabu are presented to the press by WPD chief Pasinos and Station 9 commander De Jesus. ERIK ARAZAS

Triad suspect falls

By Philip C. Tubeza

MANILA police on Sunday arrested a suspected Chinese Triad member in Meycauayan, Bulacan and seized four kilos of shabu from him.

Supt. Ramon de Jesus, Malate police chief, said Zheng Xian Wu was arrested Sunday afternoon after his friend Rudy A. Ong, caught earlier on drug charges, identified him as the source of his drugs.

Police said they confiscated from Zheng five plastic bags containing the shabu when he was arrested in front of the Equitable Bank building on Malhacan Road in Meycauyan.

A drug deal was initially set up at the Chow King branch at the corner of P. Ocampo and A. Mabini streets in Malate on Sunday morning. But at about 11 a.m., Zheng called a police informant and told him the deal should be done instead in a Jollibee branch in Las Piñas.

Zheng later changed the venue to Meycauyan again.

At about 4 p.m. that same day, the policemen sighted the suspect on board a white, unlicensed Toyota Corolla Altis along Malhacan Road.

An undercover policeman bought a bag of shabu from the suspect with marked money.

The policemen were about to arrest Zheng when he apparently noticed their presence and he drove off in his car. The policemen chased him.

Zheng was arrested after he rammed into cars parked along Malhacan Road.

The policemen submitted the shabu confiscated from him to the WPD Crime Laboratory for examination while they prepared the charges they would file against Zheng.

Cayetano-Tinga war affects school kids

By Christian V. Esguerra

TAGUIG Mayor Sigfrido Tinga and Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano are at it again.

Over 1,000 students may not have classrooms to go to when schools open next month because of the renewed bickering between Tinga and Cayetano.

Cayetano yesterday accused Tinga of blocking his plan to construct a three-story, six-classroom building, which would have replaced a "condemned" structure at the Daang Hari Elementary School.

Having received funding as early as November last year, the project would have been started in April and completed in time for the opening of the school year in June, he told the INQUIRER.

Tinga's public information officer, Ana Santos, yesterday denied the mayor blocked Cayetano's project.

"The fact is, we already had an existing project there when he decided to introduce his," she said. "The plan was to construct a three-story building with five classrooms. It is expected to be finished by September."

Cayetano yesterday revealed that hundreds of pupils at the elementary school would be forced to hold classes in makeshift classrooms beginning June.

"It's sad because it would be the students who would suffer because of (Tinga's) attempts to get the credit for these projects."

Over 600 graduates of the Cipriano Sta. Teresa Elementary School may also lose their chance to attend high school due to the raging conflict between the top Taguig officials.

Santos said Tinga and barangay officials have rejected the Cayetano-sponsored Bagumbayan National High School project because the school will be established in an area currently occupied by a basketball court.

She said the officials fear they will lose that piece of land to the Department of Education, Culture, and Sports if a school were to be built there.

"At the back of the area, Cayetano is planning to put up a gym," she said. "So why doesn't he transfer the school there? Why should he bother with the existing basketball court?"

In an interview, 42-year-old Corazon Albelar, vice president of a local parent-teacher association, asked Cayetano and Tinga to refrain from too much politicking.

"They should set politics aside for awhile and concentrate on the education of the students," Albelar said.

Fare hike . . .

From page A21

the INQUIRER that Piston would ask for a 50-centavo fare increase if oil price increases reach a total of one peso.

He said Fejodap had been pushing for a one-peso increase.

"We decided to wait until the oil increases reach a total of P2 because we did not want to burden the commuters with another fare hike," Roda said yesterday. "We understand the crisis that we are all in right now."

Oil companies have increased the prices of gasoline, diesel and kerosene by P1.76 since March, he said.

De la Fuente said Imboa had not yet made any petition to the Land Transportation Franchise and Regulatory Board.

But she maintained that the transport sector would be forced to do so if diesel prices reached P15.

She complained that bus operators have been trying not to increase their fare despite the series of oil price increases in the past few months.

The cost-cutting measures they have been implementing, however, have resulted in poor service.

"The public see us only as smoke-belchers and traffic rule violators," she said. "They complain of lack of air conditioning in our buses. What they don't know is that because of these oil price hikes, we have been losing the money that should be allotted for the maintenance of our buses."

Malonzo can't . . .

From page A21

"Me, I was thinking of what would be his answer," Erice said of Malonzo. "He cannot defend his decision of fielding his wife and building another political dynasty."

Erice was referring to Malonzo's reported common-law wife Gigi Emnace. He said he had told Malonzo he would challenge his choice of mayoral candidate for 2004.

"That's why I (left) the party," said Erice, who recently resigned from Lakas-NUCD after Malonzo supposedly announced Emnace's candidacy without consulting local party members.

"I want to challenge him through public opinion," Erice said. "Maybe he should hear the people say that something is wrong with what he is doing. If nobody will speak out because of fear, nothing will happen."

The congressman also belittled Malonzo's supposed allegations that the solon's resignation from Lakas-NUCD was just part of the congressman's early politicking.

"That's his opinion," Erice said. "His is just a small voice, anyway. It's okay."

Before he resigned from the party, Erice said Malonzo ordered the retrenchment of 42 casual City Hall employees, most of whom he had recommended. He said Malonzo also ordered the retrenchment of his security aides and the removal of his streamers in the city.

Erice sneered at Malonzo's alleged attempt to "punish" him.

"He took my opinion badly," the congressman said. "Now he is punishing me. He wants me to feel that the full force of the city government is now against me. But that's okay. It's my principle. I'll stand by it."

Fish port Petron . . .

From page A21

government cannot impose taxes on oil products," said Mayor Toby Tiangco.

The mayor clarified that what the municipal government is claiming from Petron is not taxes on their products but "business tax based on their privilege to hold business in Navotas."

Petron maintains a bulk plant in the Navotas Fish Port complex to supply fuel to fishing vessels.

Tiangco said Petron has been operating in the fish port without a proper business permit since January. He said this alone would have been enough reason for the municipal government to order the closure of the Petron bulk plant but he opted to honor the summons he received from the court following Petron's appeal.

"I'm also glad that they initiated a step to settle this," said Tiangco, referring to Petron's going to court.

"But I'm confident that our interpretation of the law, which means that Petron has to pay business tax, will prevail," he added. "We respect judiciary procedures so we also have to hear their side."

Tiangco said Petron only wanted to pay the P14,215 regulatory fees which covered garbage and sanitary inspection fees, while it declared its 2001 gross sales as amounting to P1,207,876,669.46.

"That would have been unfair," he said. "They would have to pay some P2.2 million each year for the last five years. That's more than P10 million."

He said the money the Navotas government would collect would help in funding the municipality's socio-development projects.

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12 VIDEOKE KING

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9 CLOSED
10 CLOSED
11 CLOSED
12 CLOSED

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10 FRUIT IS SWELLING

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7 GOLD (DOLBY) PANIC ROOM
8 VIDEOKE KING
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2 SPIDERMAN
3 (DOLBY) STAR WARS
4 (DTS) STAR WARS

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4 JASON-X
5 7 DAYS TO LIVE

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2 STAR WARS
3 VIDEOKE KING

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2 VIDEOKE KING
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1 JASON-X
2
3

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2 VIDEOKE KING
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Betrayal every 10 minutes

From page A25

Kuan Yew's policy on cinema, arts, and culture.

Suffice it to say that, in all likelihood, a true-to-life story about a pedophile priest will never see film production in this country even as horrified international media continue to expose pedophilia, sexual harassment and rape in the Catholic Church. Not with the moralists at the MTRCB sure to sacrifice the merits of a film rated "A" or "B" through their power to cut, delete, and ban.

Some legislators in the same conference informed us that a bill could only have one point to it. A bill that wanted to give only tax rewards could only give tax rewards. One that wanted to give censorship exemptions would have to be a separate bill.

To us, a bill that sought to give incentives should give incentives outside of just money in the same bill, but never mind that. We had no other choice but to accept promises of a future amendment of PD 1986, the law creating the MTRCB, exempting all films rated "A" or "B" from censorship. Never mind again that we knew there was no way we'd get even that. Then, as now, would come the threat of a presidential veto. Then, as now, would come another political reason to turn the amendment down.

As we continue to be amazed by the political/cultural acrobatics of film industry leaders incessantly swinging from one falling tree to the next rising tree through the entire forest of presidential administrations, as we marvel at how the political gymnastics of some can be more admirable than their films, we stand pleased that the bill has passed and we credit all those who had genuinely slaved for it.

We thank Rep. Francis Escudero who fought for the House version to the very end. We appreciate Rep. Imee Marcos's insertion of a paragraph that reads: "Films rated 'A' or 'B' shall be given weight by the MTRCB, the Video Regulatory Board, and the Department of Trade and Industry in the classification, duplication, and exportation thereof."

We are grateful to the staff of the House committee for providing us with documents and updates on the status of the bill every step of the way.

We note that most of the provisions we originated in the bill are still there. Looking back, we are gratified that the House managed to pass our version on third reading. These are tender mercies, on the week before the death anniversary of Lino Brocka, who fought for the insertion of the phrase "freedom of expression" in the 1987 Constitution's Bill of Rights.

Thank you

Realizing only too well the great long way we still have to travel for film development, we all the more take strength in the memory of National Artists for Film, Brocka and Ishmael Bernal. They never allowed any vestige of self-interest to co-opt them as makers of official art; they made movies that dared to speak the truth in plain terms. In so doing, they contributed to actually building a nation rather than crafting the mere image of one.

Thank you Lino, thank you Ishmael, for not betraying cinema to the very end of your lives. You should have been there with us at the bicameral conference, for it was all you had warned us about the capacity of certain individuals to disappoint, and it was a great education in art and culture selling out to propaganda and politics.

Lessons . . .

From page A25

was deemed too artistic and symbolic to find favor with local viewers, and yet it was still produced and released. It compromised with the inclusion of a few sexy scenes, but its artistic integrity remained intact.

"Batch '81" was similarly eye-opening as it dared to blow the lid off fraternities' violent initiation rites.

Even more courageously, it underscored the violent streak in the Filipino psyche, a fact that some people didn't want to acknowledge, but the film made its point, just the same.

If our filmmakers today want to direct movies that can come up to the level of these 10 films, they have to be as visionary, committed and courageous as Bernal, Romero, Brocka and De Leon and their producers. If they don't have what it takes, they should stop pretending to be these acclaimed filmmakers' heirs apparent, and admit to their more circumscribed abilities and intentions.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	SPIDERMAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	STAR WARS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	FRUIT IS SWELLING
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	JASON-X
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	SPIDERMAN
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	STAR WARS
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ODEON-2	FRUIT IS SWELLING
ROBEN	SANA TOTOO NA
TANDEM-1	ITLOG
TANDEM-2	IKA-7 GLORYA
TIMES	FROM HELL / D 'TOX
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	SANA TOTOO NA
REMAR	STAR WARS
REMAR-2	SANA TOTOO NA
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	SANA TOTOO NA
B	KAPIRASONG GUBAT . . .
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	STAR WARS: EPISODE 2
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	SANA TOTOO NA
CINEMA-2	BUKANG BIBIG
CINEMA-3	K-PAX
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	STAR WARS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	SPIDERMAN
CINEMA-6	JASON-X
CINEMA-7	VIDEOKE KING
CINEMA-8	SCORPION KING
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	STAR WARS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	STAR WARS
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	STAR WARS
CINEMA-12	SPIDERMAN
CINEMA-14	SPIDERMAN
CINEMA-15	SPIDERMAN
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	PANIC ROOM
CINEMA-2	STAR WARS: EPISODE 2
CINEMA-3	STAR WARS: EPISODE 2
CINEMA-4	STAR WARS: EPISODE 2
CINEMA-5	SPIDERMAN
CINEMA-6	STAR WARS: EPISODE 2
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

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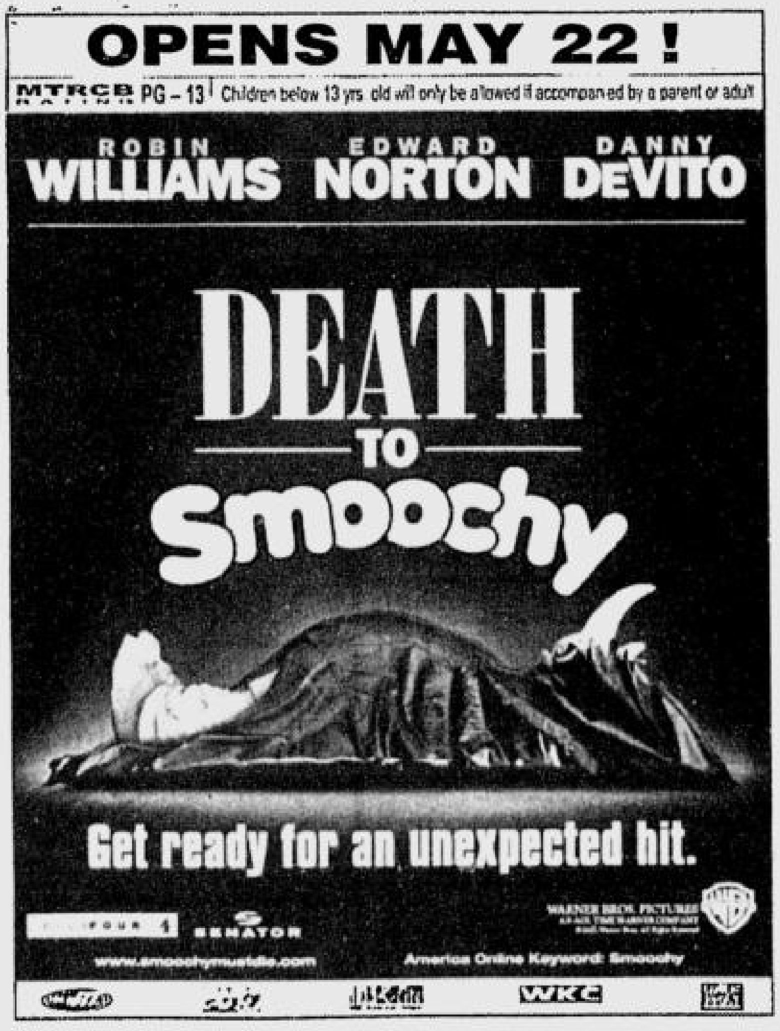
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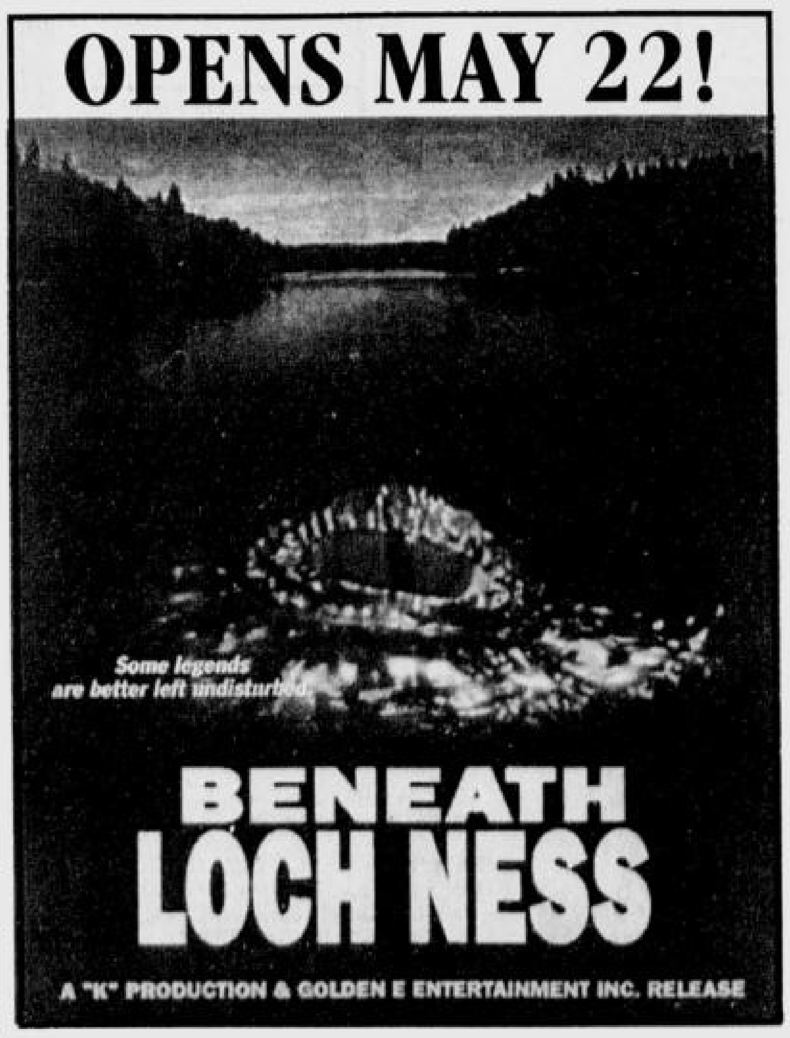
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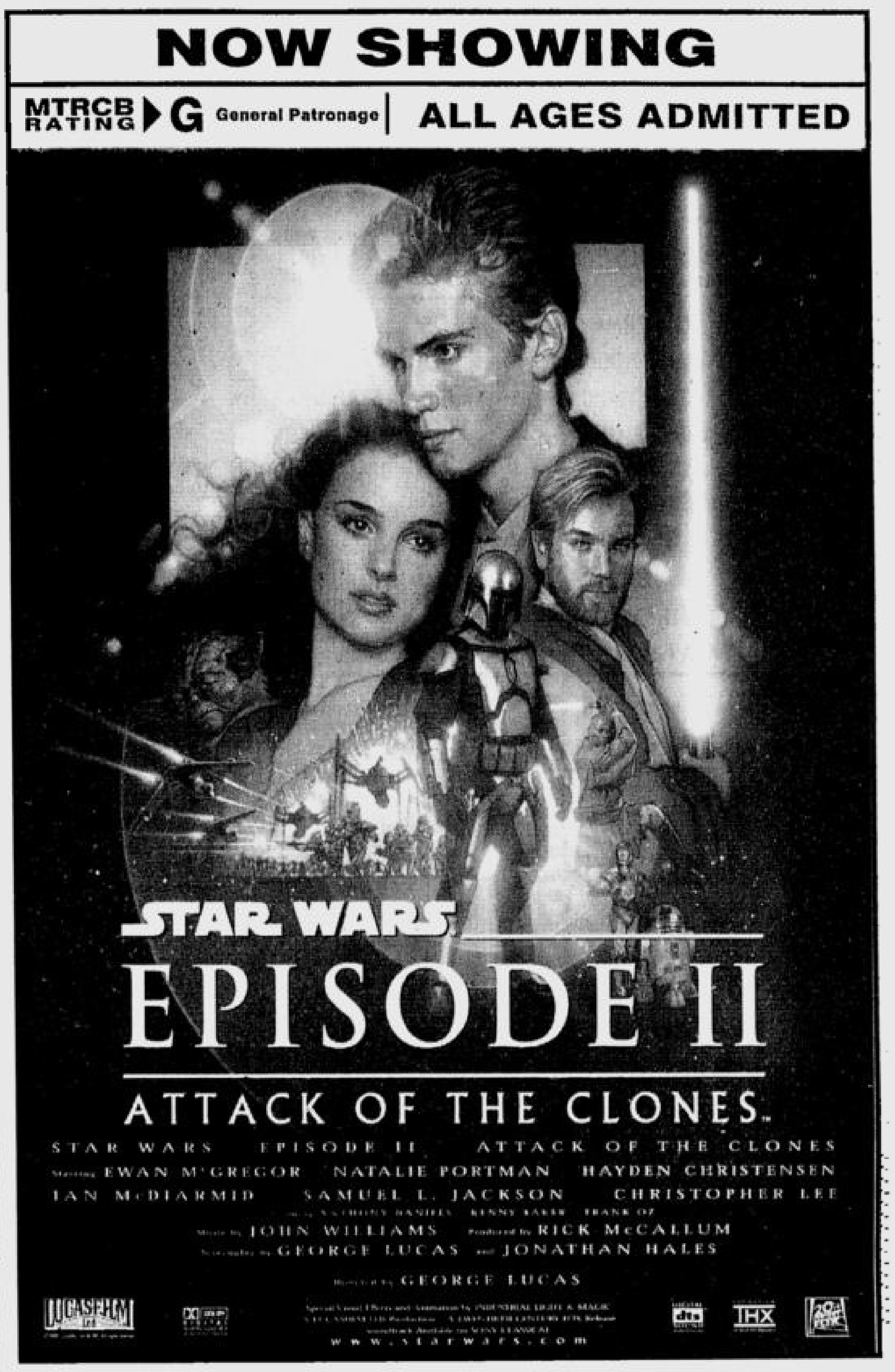
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Screenplay by GEORGE LUCAS and JONATHAN HALES
Directed by GEORGE LUCAS
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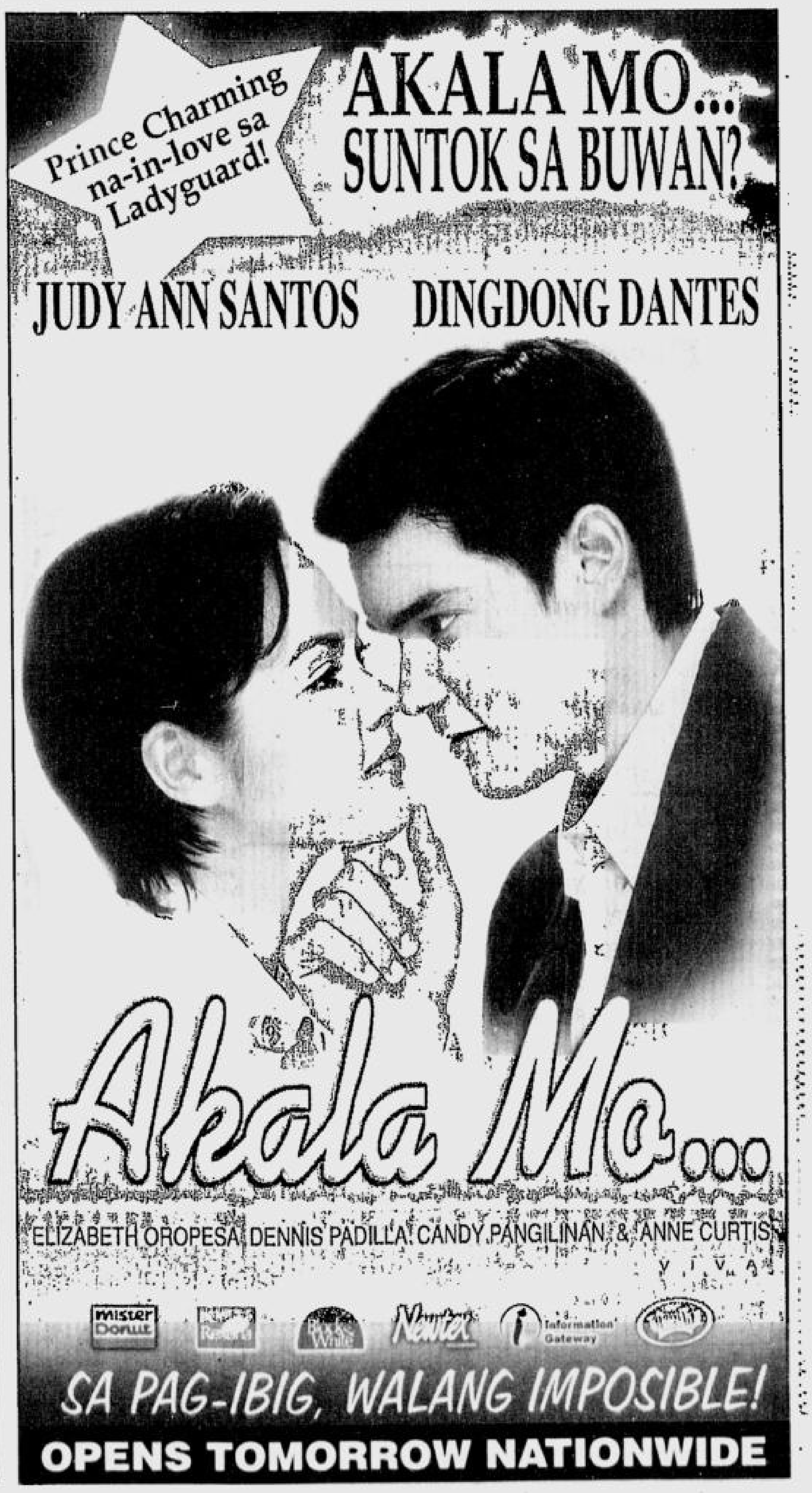
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AKALA MO... SUNTOK SA BUWAN?
JUDY ANN SANTOS DINGDONG DANTES
Akala Mo...
ELIZABETH OROPESA DENNIS PADILLA CANDY PANGILINAN & ANNE CURTIS
VIVA
SA PAG-IBIG, WALANG IMPOSIBLE!
OPENS TOMORROW NATIONWIDE

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Betrayal every 10 minutes

By Carlos Siguion-Reyna and Bibeth Orteza
Contributors

A PEERLESS filmmaker this side of the globe once likened the Filipino film industry to a whorehouse, where sex occurred every 10 minutes.

Without meaning to cast aspersion on the woman whose innate morality and nation-building efforts through film runs over and above ordinary mortals, we—a happily monogamous couple—disagree. And not because it's been exposed that the sex that occurs every 10 minutes is within hallowed grounds of churches all over the world. Not because sex in the film and television industry is mostly consensual, as there can be no excuse for the film (or TV) executive who uses his superiority to whet his lurid appetite on even those only too willing to be victimized for a crack at stardom.

We disagree because the Filipino film industry is a political arena where betrayal takes place every 10 minutes, on all levels.

We had pinned our hopes on a movie bill that was to encourage production of quality Filipino films, the consistent output of which was sure to enable explosive entry into the global film market that could not be tapped by sporadic efforts here and there.

The bill was finally approved in the Senate-House bicameral conference held at the Manila Hotel last May 16.

The die is cast, yet we feel obliged to set the record straight for generations of Filipino filmmakers and moviegoers to come, in fairness to those who for eight years continuously worked with senators and congressmen in drafting, amending, refining, and lobbying for the bill.

Our group, composed of former MTRCB chair Armida Siguion-Reyna, the Directors' Guild of the Philippines Inc. (Peque Gallaga, Joel Lamangan, Joey Reyes, Mel Chionglo, Gil Portes, Maryo de los Reyes, Erik Matti, Jeffrey Jetturian, and Lav Diaz, among others), the Concerned Artists of the Philippines, writers Roy Iglesias, Armando Lao, Raquel Villavicencio, and Pete Lacaba, wanted a law with a dual proposal toward cinematic growth.

Genuine development

We believed, and always will, that genuine cinema development can only result from a two-pronged approach: the financial reward of tax incentives to embolden producers into making films outside of traditional commercial formulas, and the free creative environment to stimulate writers and directors to make provocative and challenging films examining human and social conditions.

This two-pronged approach was passed by the House of Representatives on May 14. It never had a fighting chance. It was dead even before the first gunshot was fired.

There was another group of lobbyists that was after only just the tax money, ignoring the possibility of a film rated "A" or "B" ending up disfigured or banned in parts, or as a whole, by the MTRCB. It was composed of industry leaders Marichu Maceda, Espiridion Laxa of the Film Academy of the Philippines, filmmakers Laurice Guillen (president of the present Film Development Foundation), Marilou Diaz-Abaya (director of President Macapagal-Arroyo's commercials), and Eddie Romero (of the National Council on Culture and the Arts).

Maceda, Romero and Laxa were with us in the technical working group meetings and committee hearings in the House and the Senate through the years as industry resource persons. Guillen and Diaz-Abaya lobbied only within the last year or so, after President Macapagal had awarded them key posts, after they had synchronized positions with the President and Cardinal Sin during the Malacañang-Church collusion on the controversial "Live Show."

Guillen and Diaz-Abaya were also no longer with the DGPI, the directors' organization that aimed "to develop appreciation and critical awareness of film as an art form under the mantle of freedom of expression, as a medium of entertainment, and as an instrument of education and development."

How it happened

Filmmakers Guillen, Diaz-Abaya and Romero agreed to have the censorship exemption proviso "killed" on committee level in the Senate, maintaining along with Maceda that that was the way Ms Macapagal wanted it.

Hence it was largely the tax-rewards—only Recto-Legarda Senate version that got railroaded through the bicameral conference on the disagreeing portions of Senate Bill No. 2049 and House Bill No. 4644.

News reached us that Maceda and Guillen were in the house committee's pre-bicam meeting on Wednesday afternoon to relay that the President had sent word she was going to veto the bill if it included the censorship exemption provision.

But we believed in the separation of the legislative and executive branches of government. We thought the legislators were going to prove their independence and deliver the bill *en toto*. Until we heard Senate committee on public information chair Vicente Sotto III citing his "marching orders" from the "powers that be" three times as he bludgeoned the Senate version into approval in the bicameral conference.

Former President Fidel Ramos had in the past courted Senator Sotto's vote on the General Agreement on Tariff and Trade, but the man kept the "No" vote he promised to farmer-constituents in Nueva Ecija. How could he now shirk because of a threat of a presidential veto? Why, when in the last Congress he had averred he could pass the bill without letting go of any of the two salient provisions?

He could only have realized the bill in its original form was too big and too heavy for him to see through. That's why he gave up.

As did Sen. Manuel Villar, whose version of the bill in the Senate carried the two provisions, and who, as Speaker in the previous Congress, let the same bill pass intact.

As did Sotto's House committee on public information counterpart, Rep. Romualdo Vicencio, who simply sat there and watched what his fellow congressmen had voted for get booted out the door.

Rep. Agapito Aquino gave us a *consuelo de bobo:* "Now you have a law. *Bakla nga lang.*"

Censorship

We'll never know if it was just the fear of the presidential veto that swayed them. Or if they were convinced by their filmmaker-cohorts' old guard penchant for nation building films as sterile as Singapore Prime Minister Lee

BETRAYAL/A24

Lessons younger filmmakers can learn from Manunuris' best list

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

OTHER lessons younger filmmakers can learn from the list of the 10 best Filipino movies made in the last 30 years, released recently by the Manunuri ng Pelikulang Filipino:

Practically all of the 10 "best of the best" films ("Orapronobis," "Maynila sa mga Kuko ng Liwanag," "Ganito Kami Noon, Paano Kayo Ngayon," "Kisapmata," "Bayaning 3rd World," "Himala," "Manila After Dark," "Batch '81," "Insiang" and "Nunal sa Tubig") were made not for commercial reasons, but to shed light on various murky aspects of human experience.

Indeed, quite a number of them lost money or barely broke even—but they have been praised and honored with awards, and have "outlived" their contemporaries.

This is an important point for younger filmmakers to appreciate: that exceptional filmmaking in this country doesn't happen as a matter of course, it must be fought for and pushed to fruition, despite the many impediments thrown in its way.

One reason why local filmmaking is in the dumps is the fact that most of our directors have become too comfortable with compromise, of making the commercial movies that their producers want, instead of the films they feel a great need to make.

These 10 films by **Lino Brocka**, **Eddie Romero**, **Ishmael Bernal** and **Mike de Leon** were also supported by some visionary producers who were willing to risk their money on "non-commercial" material, so our gratitude must also extend to the likes of **Marichu Vera-Perez Maceda** and **Jessie Ejercito**.

Mike de Leon should be cited both as a director and producer, since he helped bankroll some of the films on this list. To our mind, he deserves our thanks most of all, and we must try to convince him to resume making films, despite the disappointments he's had.

Another key point is that filmmakers should not be afraid to dramatize "controversial" themes and "taboo" topics. We don't mean sexual taboos, which is what many directors now are focusing on (some of them, to boost their careers), but far more important subjects.

Take Brocka's "Orapronobis:" it presented such an honest picture of Philippine realities that it had to be financed by a French producers, and couldn't be released commercially here.

Bernal's "Manila by Night" was similarly frowned upon because of its stark honesty, and had to be retitled "City After Dark" before it could be released, among other adjustments.

"Nunal sa Tubig" was courageous in another way, because it

LESSONS/A24

Jessica Rodriguez having David Bunevacz's baby

DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

JESSICA Rodriguez is overjoyed that she's finally infanticipating.

"I'm one month pregnant," she gushed. "**David (Bunevacz)** was on the verge of tears when I told him the good news. It's going to be our firstborn and the first *apo* on David's side. His family in the States can hardly wait for the baby to come! I'm going to give birth in the US. That's what David wants."

Jessica's other kids (**Hayca**, 14, and **Grant**, 8) are no longer babies. That's why it seems like it's her first time all over again.

"I forgot how it feels to be pregnant," she said. "I'll still do my yoga class and try to stay fit even when my tummy grows big. I crave for *singkamas* (turnips) dipped in vinegar. This early, David wants to buy maternity clothes for me."

Knowing Jessica's fashion flair, she would definitely be one glamorous mom-to-be. "I can't imagine myself wearing shapeless preggy clothes. *Dapat* stylish pa rin!"

David is hoping for a girl whom he wants to name **Sastha**, but Jessica will welcome either a boy or a girl. She sees no sibling rivalry brewing because Hayca and Grant are also excited to see their new little playmate. In fact, the very first one who learned about Jessica's pregnancy was her daughter Hayca.

"After my pregnancy test turned out positive, I told Hayca to come with me to the hospital so I could have a blood test and verify if I was really pregnant. She wrote David a Congrats card and I enclosed the pregnancy test and blood test results when I told him over dinner that he's going to be a daddy soon."

I've seen Jessica through all the highs and lows of her colorful life. Other women made of lesser stuff would have crumbled if they went through even just a fraction of what she went through. That's why I share in Jessica's joy now that she's expecting her firstborn with David. She is indeed a living proof that life rewards those who persevere and live life's lessons well.

Patricia to Hollywood

ANOTHER "baby" of Jessica Rodriguez, **Patricia Javier**, is a few dreams away from breaking into Hollywood.

Jessica said: "A Hollywood agent, **Adrian**, who's based in Singapore spotted Patricia's photos in a Pinoy website of local actresses. He's on the lookout for Asian actresses. He has signed up a Chinese model already. He contacted me and flew here to meet Patricia.

"I'm impressed with how he's handling everything to promote Patricia. He's shelling out a lot of money so that Patricia will have more exposure."

Patricia had a fab pictorial with **Tom Epherson** for the June cover of FHM. Jessica the proud manager addded: "Adrian and I are finalizing negotiations with a recording company for Patricia's CD. He wants to make Patricia into a **Kylie Minogue** singer type and her records will be sold all over Asia. She will record 'Baby I'm Yours' plus one other song for the sampler."

Jessica and Patricia are bound for Puerto Galera to shoot Patricia's MTV which will be launched on June 10 and will be aired on MTV Asia."

By all indications, Jessica and her prized ward are on a roll. Her coming baby and Patricia's international project could not have come at a better time. Yet another sign that life owes a better fate to those who don't live an unlived life. You just have to look at life straight in the eye and embrace whatever pain or joy it brings.

I should know. With all the "scandals" I've been dragged into, I still refuse to succumb to combat fatigue. Why be removed when you can move?

Seminar

HOW do you make godly decisions and lead a godly life in the business world? What is God's purpose for those in the marketplace?

Anyone who works in the business world should attend **Peter Tsukahira**'s life-changing seminar, "My Father's Business—Guidelines for Ministry in the Workplace." The seminar will be on May 21-23, 1:30-5 p.m. at the ACCM Bldg., Valero Street, Salcedo Village, Makati. Call **Francis** or **Connie**, 750-0389 and 92.

For feedback, e-mail friends_at_dsquare@yahoo.com

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STAR WARS - GP 12:20, 3:15, 6:10, 9:05	SPIDERMAN - GP 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10	STAR WARS - GP 11:45, 2:40, 5:35, 8:30

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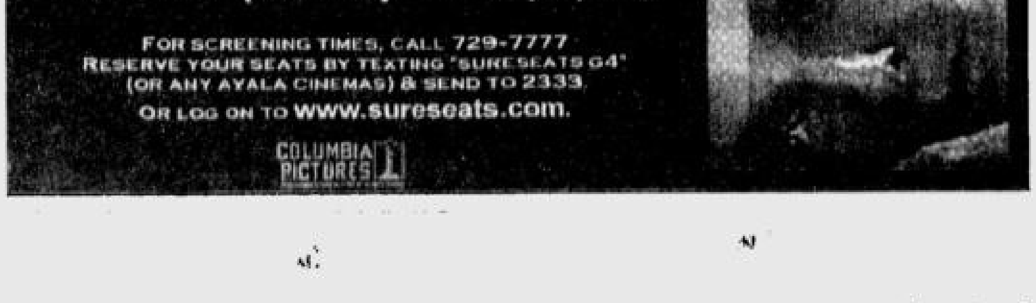

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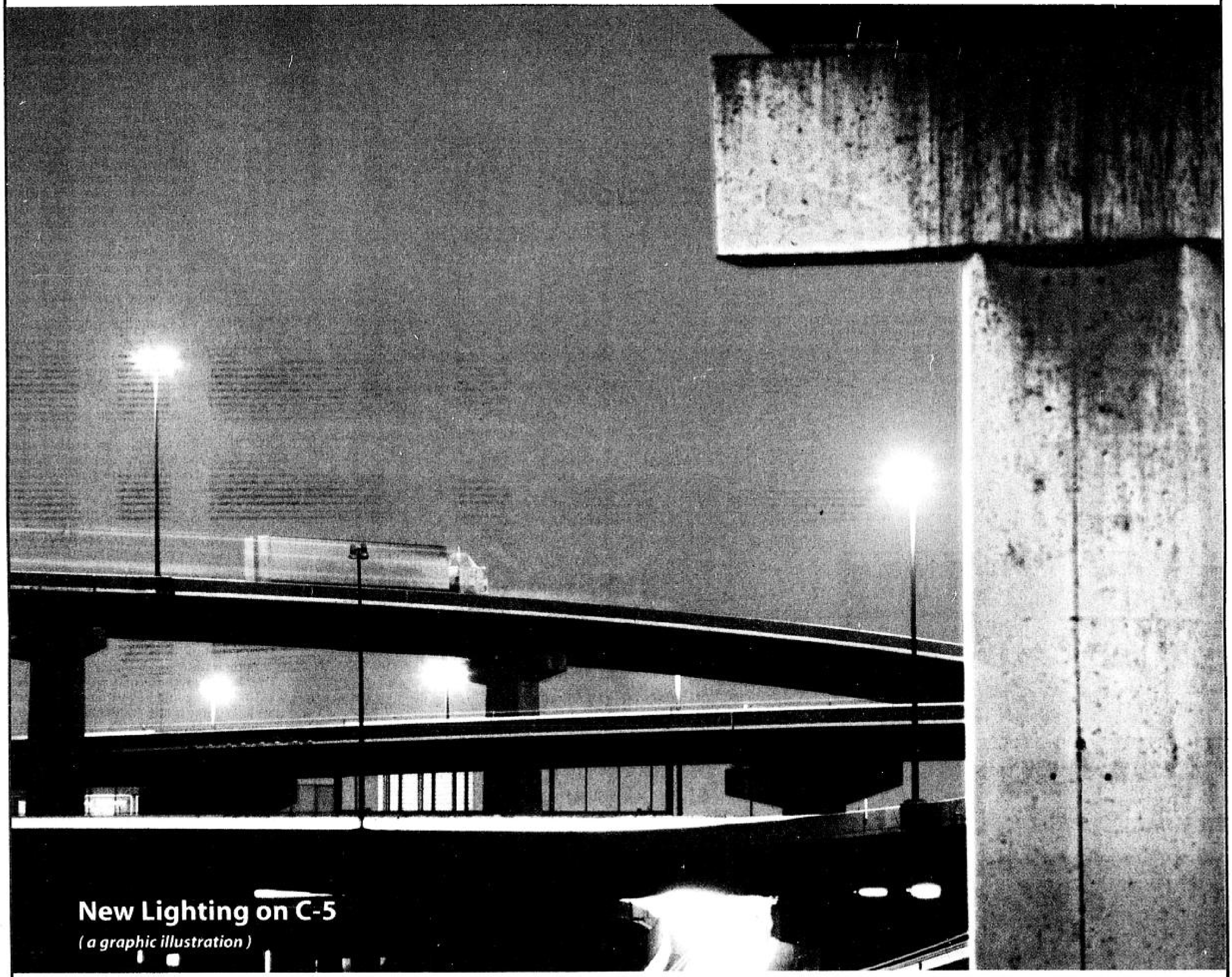

New Lighting on C-5

(a graphic illustration)

Liwanag at katahimikan sa inyong buhay mula sa pamahalaan ni Presidente Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo sa tulong ng PAGCOR

Who lights up your life? PAGCOR, under the Office of President Gloria Macapagal– Arroyo, has been implementing various lighting projects along major thoroughfares throughout Metro Manila and the provinces aimed at improving law enforcement and vehicular safety.

Motorists used to avoid the dimly-lit C-5 because of vehicular mishaps, holdups and stone-throwing incidents. PAGCOR has installed new lights and replaced broken lamp posts… so now people are beginning to see C-5 in a whole new light.

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March import growth highest in 18 months

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE COUNTRY'S import bill surged by 10 percent in March, the highest in 18 months, following the sharp expansion in demand for electronics components.

Philippine imports are dominated by raw material for the exports sector and a rise in imports signals that manufacturing for the economy's key driver is on the increase.

Analysts said the expansion in imports should boost export earnings specially from electronics, the country's biggest export earner.

It was the second consecutive month that Philippine imports posted a positive growth as local manufacturers are becoming more aggressive in beefing up inventory. A marginal expansion of 0.6 percent was recorded in February after a seven-month contraction.

The National Statistics Office reported, however, that the country reverted to a small trade deficit of $18 million for the month of March, as the surge in imports to $2.87 billion outpaced the $2.85 billion in earnings from export.

But analysts shrugged off the slight dent on the trade balance for March, focusing instead on the positive impact of the resurgence of imports on industrial production.

For the three-month period, the country still enjoyed a trade surplus of $1.02 billion,

MARCH/ B2

Gokongwei to develop 6-ha Bonifacio property

/B3

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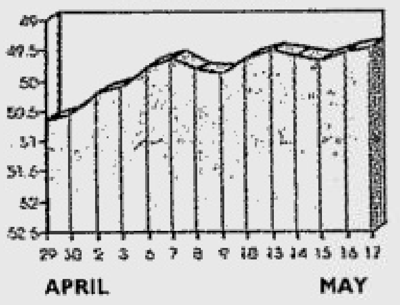
PESO - DOLLAR



GRAPHS BY ROBERT ANDRES

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As of 5 p.m., May 20, 2002

¥ 125.62 = $1
As of 5 p.m., May 20, 2002

GOLD: $310/310.50
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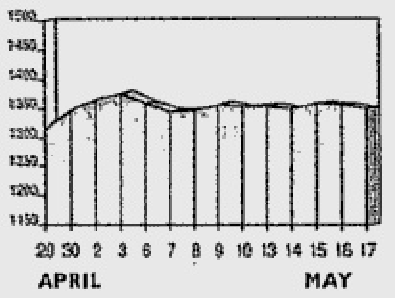
PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

STOCK MARKET

Shares end slightly down

SHARES ended slightly lower yesterday with blue chip SM Prime leading the decline, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index ended down 5.61 points, or 0.4 percent, at 1344.02, adding to Friday's 0.5-percent loss. Volume rose to 194.81 million shares valued at P537.42 million from 170.4 million shares worth P454.5 million pesos on Friday.

Shares of mall operator SM Prime fell 20 centavos, or 3.4 percent, to P5.70.

Traders said the sell-off in SM Prime might stem from programmed trades, since there was no fundamental reason for the stock's decline. SM Prime's first-quarter performance was broadly in line with expectation, with net profit rising 11 percent to P1 billion.

KGI Securities trader Lawrence de Leon said generally lackluster first-quarter corporate results may have damped investors' appetites. *AP*

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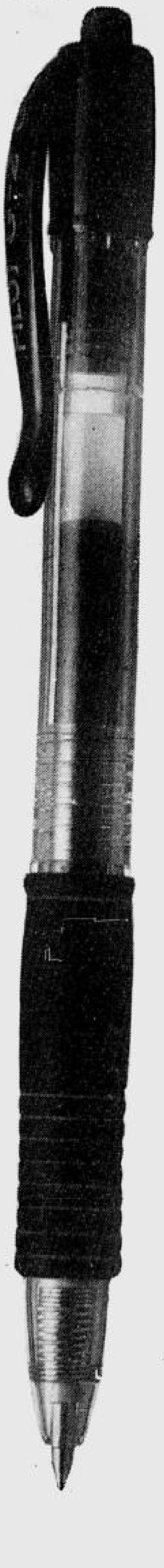

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Attack of the clowns

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

THIS Department of Agriculture, or the DA, must be out of its mind. It wants to lessen the damage of the El Niño dry spell. Thus it is trying desperately to raise more money.

In the past five years, knowing that El Niño just comes every now and then, the DA has spent some P9 billion for irrigation projects. This year it wants to spend a lot more.

For some P1 billion, luckily, the DA already got a promise from the Department of Budget. It only needs another P1 billion more. Well, real money! Not just a promise!

Why don't we, according to the clowns at the DA, beg our beloved lawmakers to promise their billions of pesos in pork barrel. Ha ha ha, that's funny!

For lawmakers to give up their pork barrel, if you ask me, would take an enormous miracle. And even if it happens, it is not allowed under pork barrel rules.

* * *

PREVIOUSLY, you see, pork barrel was called the CDF, or the "countrywide development fund." Such a name, some people argued, exposed the pork barrel to abuse.

It would allow any project, for instance, as long as it was in the country (i.e. "countrywide"). Lawmakers built their own multi-purpose saunas with it.

Nowadays pork barrel is known as the "priority development assistance fund," or the PDAF. The money must go to a "priority" project.

But few people realize – fewer lawmakers in fact – that in both the CDF and the PDAF, the operative word is "development." Progress. Expansion. Advancement. Development is the decisive factor.

Thus the DA's suggestion – to use pork barrel to fight El Niño – does not qualify for pork barrel funding technically. It is not for development. It is only for survival.

* * *

SEN. Panfilo Lacson thinks that a lot of the pork barrel is wasted. He has said up to 60 percent of it is lost to...well, "commission."

Ping wants to abolish it. I have a suggestion, boss. Why don't you ask the other senators to give the "commission" – only the commission – to the DA instead?

That can easily raise the additional P1 billion that the DA needs. Every senator has P200 million in the PDAF. That's already P4.8 billion for the Senate. And 60 percent (i.e. commission) of that is already P2.8 billion.

That is more than enough for the yet unfunded irrigation projects of the DA in anticipation of the El Niño dry spell.

The beauty of it is the DA does not even have to kneel before congressmen. We all know they need every peso of their pork. Didn't you see how they were ready to kill each other over it.

* * *

THAT'S why Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin is only calling for local government units to contribute to the El Niño fund. She knows that nobody can touch the pork barrel.

Boncodin wants municipalities and cities to part with a portion of their so-called IRA, or the "internal revenue allotments," for the irrigation projects.

The IRA is the money that the national government sends to towns and cities, year in and year out, as their share in the loot, este, tax collection.

Reportedly, Boncodin is trying to persuade mayors — or their wives, who will also become mayors someday anyway — to use 20 percent of their IRA for irrigation projects.

Boncodin has a little problem though. As a rule, the national government takes care of things like irrigation. Local governments normally look after things like . . . jueteng shades.

* * *

ANYWAY, Boncodin is careful about releasing more money for any anti-El Niño project because of the problems in the budget deficit. The government already overshot its target.

That, to some analysts, is the worst news since the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. They are reportedly worried. So they tell the government to cut on spendings.

To ease their worried minds, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said that this cute administration would try its best not to listen to the analysts. Whew!

It's too early, he said, for us to think about cutting on spendings just because the government exceeded its budget deficit target during one short quarter.

A cut on spendings is fine. Let's just not do it in agriculture. Look, the DA needs just P1 billion more. And it needs the money for food! What's a bigger priority than that?

* * *

GOVERNMENT spending in agriculture means we can produce more food. This means we can eat better. When we eat better, we become healthy.

In the long pull, investments in agriculture today means less government spending on public health care in the future.

And I think that's what good economic management is all about. It is supposed to result in tangible benefits to everybody. Not just analysts.

For economic management is not about turning out good economic figures, just for the sake of turning out good economic figures, which can only benefit analysts.

And we all know what figures do to us. They make us look okay on paper. I'd go for bad economic figures, if only we can give P1 billion more to the anti-El Niño fund.

* * *

ALRIGHT, I know that the world is watching our budget deficit. Fiscal management is the pride and joy of Gloriaetta's economic managers, right?

Everytime they've made a sales pitch to foreign investors, they've been pointing at fiscal discipline as the biggest plus for investments in this country since the present Balikatan.

Anyway, with the budget deficit going crazy in the first quarter, potential investors may momentarily hold off putting money here.

But cutting back on spendings to hit the deficit target is the oldest trick in the fiscal management book. Alright, second oldest. The oldest is booking expenditures for next year's budget.

Still, I'm not sure that denying the DA another P1 billion to fight El Niño is a wise thing to do now. It may be good on paper and lead to good deficit figures but I just don't know what damage it will do to the GDP figures. Growth comes from agriculture.

COUNTRY SHARES
As of May 21, 2002

	BUYING	SELLING
ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB A/B*	1.7M *	1,700,000
ALTA VISTA A	500,000	-
BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	725,000	750,000
CALATAGAN GOLF CLUB A/B*	75,000	95,000/105,000 *
CAMP JOHN HAY	-	280,000
CANLUBANG	500,000	-
CAPITOL HILLS	-	125,000
CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB	190,000	190,000
EAGLE RIDGE A/B*/C**	620,000 *	350,000/450,000/700,000 *
EVERCREST A/B*	135,000 *	100,000
FONTANA DIC*/B**	-	90,000/150,000/1250,000 *
FOREST HILLS A/B*/C**	210,000	230,000/300,000/325,000 *
MAKATI SPORTS A/B*	250,000	270,000/300,000 *
MANILA POLO CLUB (ASAP)	2.75 M	2,900,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS A/B*	-	650,000/750,000 *
METROPOLITAN A/B*	-	120,000/125,000 *
MIMOSA IND/C2*/C3**	120,000/200,000 *	155,000/255,000/350,000 *
MT. MALARAYAT A/C*	-	350,000/525,000 *
ORCHARD A/B*/C**	200,000	230,000/350,000/425,000 *
PUERTO AZUL	-	125,000
QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	200,000	225,000
RIVIERA A/B*	-	195,000/400,000 *
ROCKWELL CLUB	450,000	475,000
ROYALE TAGAYTAY A/B*/C**	-	90,000/150,000/180,000 *
SHERWOOD HILLS A/B*/C**	-	130,000/250,000/350,000 *
STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB A/B*	1.525M *	1.75M
SUBIC BAY IND/CORP.*	290,000 *	200,000/300,000 *
TAT FILIPINAS GOLF A/B*	-	350,000/550,000 *
TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS CC/GOLF*	400,000/850,000 *	425,000/900,000 *
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	790,000	780,000
VALLE VERDE IND.	150,000	170,000
VALLEY GOLF	230,000	-

Available Lessors for Playing Rights: Alabang, Calatagan, Camp John Hay, Canlubang, Canyon Woods, The Country Club (Free) Celebrity, Eagleridge, Eastridge, Forest Hills, Makati Sports, Malarayat, Orchard, Rivera, Sta. Elena, Southwoods (Free), Tagaytay H-lands & Midlands, Valley Golf, Wack Wack, Rockwell & Others
Need Lessor: Manila Golf (Urgent), Eagleridge B
Selling: Villas, Belleview, Pinecrest & Woodlands in Tagaytay Highlands
Lots: Eagleridge, Forest Hills, Punta Fuego, Royale Tagaytay & Southwoods
Please Call Tel. Nos. 853-1626/27; Globe 0917-8346825 or 0916-8514374

G & W clubshares
SEC License Broker No.: A-17597
As of May 21, 2002

CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
Alabang Country Club "A"	1,700,000	-
Alabang Country Club "B"	1,800,000	-
Alta Vista	-	300,000
Baguio Country Club	740,000	720,000
Camp John Hay	295,000	260,000
Capitol Hills Golf & CC	130,000	-
Canyon Woods	160,000	-
Calatagan Golf Club	100,000	-
City Sports Club	830,000	Pls. Call
Eagleridge "A"	350,000	330,000
Eastridge	200,000	-
Evercrest	100,000	-
Fairways & Blue Waters	500,000	-
Fontana DIC	90,000/140,000	Pls. Call
Forest Hills "A"	230,000	200,000
Manila Golf	-	11,000,000
Manila Polo	2,800,000	2,700,000
Makati Sports Club	290,000	250,000
Manila Southwoods A/B*	650,000/750,000*	650,000*
Metropolitan Club	-	90,000
Mimosa Golf Ind./C3*	140,000/300,000*	-
Mt. Malarayat	350,000	-
Phil. Columbian	80,000	60,000
Punta Fuego	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Puerto Azul "A"/"B"	110,000/Pls. Call	-
Quezon City Sports Club "A"	240,000	210,000
Riviera Golf "A"/"C"*	185,000/450,000*	-
Riviera Golf "B"	250,000	-
Rockwell	450,000	325,000
Royale Tagaytay A/C	90,000/140,000	70,000
Sherwoods	105,000	-
Subic Bay Yacht Club "Corp"	400,000	300,000
Subic Golf	190,000	-
Tagaytay Country Club	430,000	400,000
Tagaytay Highlands Golf & CC	-	800,000
Tagaytay Midlands	800,000	750,000
Valley Golf & CC	-	260,000
Valle Verde (Indv.)	180,000	-
Wack Wack Golf	7,200,000	-

FREE PLAYING RIGHTS AVAILABLE Looking For Forest Hills Inactive Share
TL 6435306/Tel. No. 6359918/6359830/6359725/(0919)7041844/(0917)8191914
Mon. - Fri., 9:00 am - 6:00 pm. Sat. 8:00 am - 12:00 pm.
Unit 1402 Medical Plaza Ortigas, San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City.

GOLFERS CLUB SHARES, INC.
SEC LICENSE # A 1998-2129
AS OF MAY 20, 2002

	SELLING	BUYING
1. ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "A"	1,700,000	1,600,000
2. ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "B"	1,750,000	1,700,000
3. BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	750,000	650,000
4. CALATAGAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	100,000	80,000
5. CAMP JOHN HAY	300,000	250,000
6. CANLUBANG GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	600,000	550,000
7. CAPITOL HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	125,000	120,000
8. CELEBRITY CLUB	190,000	175,000
9. COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS		370,000
10. CLUB FILIPINO	210,000	190,000
11. EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	200,000	
12. EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	350,000	330,000
13. EVERCREST GOLF CLUB "A"	100,000	
14. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	220,000	200,000
15. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	280,000	
16. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	500,000	
17. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	280,000	260,000
18. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B"	300,000	
19. MANILA GOLF CLUB (IND.)		10,500,000
20. MANILA POLO CLUB	2,800,000	2,700,000
21. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "A"	650,000	620,000
22. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "B"	750,000	700,000
23. METROPOLITAN CLUB "A"	100,000	
24. METROPOLITAN CLUB "B"	150,000	
25. MT. MALARAYAT GOLF CLUB (IND.)	350,000	
26. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	230,000	200,000
27. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	250,000	
28. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	370,000	
29. QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	230,000	200,000
30. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	200,000	
31. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	250,000	210,000
32. STA ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"	1,800,000	
33. SUBIC BAY YACHT CLUB (IND)	250,000	
34. TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS INT'L. GOLF CLUB		650,000
35. TAGAYTAY MIDLAND		750,000
36. VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB	170,000	150,000
37. VALLEY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB		240,000
38. WACK WACK GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB		6,600,000

ASSIGNMENT OF PLAYING RIGHTS PLS. CALL

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La Tondeña to buy back more shares

By Doris C. Dumlao

LA TONDEÑA Distillers Inc., the hard liquor unit of food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp., yesterday approved the buyback from the open market of an additional 5 percent of its total shares to take advantage of low market prices and improve its earnings ratio.

Shares of LTDI have been rising and among the most actively traded at the Philippine Stock Exchange since it announced the buyback of 10 percent of its shares last April. Analysts estimated that the 10-percent buyback had been completed last week, prompting the LTDI board to approve the purchase of more shares from the market.

LTDI closed at P34 yesterday, about 54 percent higher than the level where it was trading prior to its buyback program.

The proceeds from the sale of LTDI's water and juice businesses and the strong internal cash generation from operations provided the company with more liquidity than it needed at the moment. LTDI said the best way to channel this liquidity given the very low rate on funds was to buy back its shares.

The LTDI management also believed it was now the best time to accumulate its own shares in view of the strong cash flow from first-quarter earnings.

The hard liquor company reported a 36-percent increase in net income to P411 million in the first three months of the year from a year ago, which the company said was "record-breaking" considering its foregone water and juice businesses.

Analysts said LTDI shares were becoming attractive again for the first time since the transfer of its non-liquor businesses to affiliate Coca Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc. Some analysts also believed that the rush into buying back shares from the market was because a new investor might buy into LTDI or it would acquire another company and then issue shares.

LTDI's parent firm SMC likewise embarked on a buyback program equivalent to 10 percent of its total shares last year preparatory to the 15-percent buy-in deal with Kirin Brewery Ltd. of Japan.

DISCLOSURES

MARSTEEL Consolidated Inc. denied having any information that could explain the 46.15-percent increase in its class "A" shares that rose from P0.013 to P0.19 per share.

* * *

GRAND Plaza Hotel Corp. will hold its special stockholders' meeting on July 1, 10:30 a.m., at the ballroom of Heritage Hotel, Pasay City. Stockholders as of May 31 shall be entitled to vote at the meeting.

* * *

THE BOARD of **Keppel Philippines Marine** approved the P80,000 per director remuneration for the financial year 2001 as well as the transfer of the company's movable assets and inventories to **Keppel Batangas Shipyard Inc.** Its non-movable assets will then be leased to the same company for about P4.6 million per month.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **Mariwasa Manufacturing Inc.** were Edison Co Setong, Kan Trakulhoon, Ferdinand Edwin Co Setong, Dusit Nontanakorn, Sobson Ketsuwan, Aurasa Jinawath, Visan Chotitanmapong, Jacinto Sy, Lourdes Sy, Benjamin Laurel, Regina Co Setong and Yvette Co Setong. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Monday, May 20, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	56.5	56.5	56	56	5,040,800
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	3,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	38	38	37	37	62,300
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	39.5	41	39.5	41	70,900
Philippine National Bank	41.5	41.5	41.5	41.5	5,000
Phil. Savings Bank	27	28	26	28	3,700
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12	12	12	12	6,700
Union Bank of the Phil.	23.5	23.5	23.5	23.5	24,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	200,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1420	1420	1405	1405	3,450
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	20,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1075	1080	1075	1075	14,080
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	31	31	31	31	8,800
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.59	0.59	0.59	0.59	2,700,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	680	690	675	680	3,310
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.04	0.04	0.039	0.039	2,000,000
Piltel	0.38	0.38	0.34	0.34	3,540,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	445	445	435	437.5	60,770
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.017	0.017	0.016	0.017	45,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	25	25.5	25	25.5	9,500
Manila Electric Co. B	38.5	39	38.5	39	75,000
Petron Corp.	1.76	1.78	1.76	1.78	2,168,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.54	1.66	1.54	1.66	400,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	7,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	76,000
Negros Navigation Co. Inc.	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	50,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	2.1	2.16	2.1	2.16	10,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.24	0.26	0.24	0.26	470,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	50,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.08	2.08	2.08	2.08	30,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9	2,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.75	13.75	13.5	13.5	70,000
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	32.5	34	31.5	34	1,015,600
RFM Corp.	1.26	1.28	1.26	1.28	26,000
San Miguel Corp. A	49	49.5	48.5	49.5	45,800
San Miguel Corp. B	57	57.5	57	57.5	77,400
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.9	5.9	5.8	5.8	646,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.4	2.4	2.38	2.38	823,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.32	0.33	0.31	0.33	1,770,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	40,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	10,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	20,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	9,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	40,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	140,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.59	0.59	0.59	0.59	330,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.28	200,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	430,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	200,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	27	27	26.5	26.5	18,100
Global Equities Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	30,000
Ionics Inc.	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	40,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.59	0.59	0.5	0.5	120,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	1,440,000
Music Corp.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	220,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	1,710,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	500,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Cen Azucar De Tarlac	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	5,000
Interphil Labs Inc. A	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.91	10,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	7,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	880,000
Mondragon Intl Phils. Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.24	0.24	110,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	31	31	31	31	354,800
Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr)	815	815	815	815	200
Jollibee Warrants	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	17,700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	700
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	25,000,000
OTHERS					
Far Eastern University	450	450	450	450	40
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7.1	7.2	7.1	7.2	1,451,000
Cityland Development Corp.	3	3	3	3	22,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	200,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	2,560,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	3.05	3.15	3.05	3.1	1,674,000
Highlands Prime Leisure	1.84	1.84	1.84	1.84	25,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.17	0.17	180,000
SM Development Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	226,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.9	5.9	5.7	5.7	18,237,000
MINING					
Itogon-Suyoc Mines Inc.	0.041	0.043	0.041	0.041	6,500,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	17,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	25,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	2,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	50,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.28	150,000
OIL					
Interport Res. B	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	10,000,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	50,000

CURRENCIES

May 20, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.086602	1.000000	49.4830
Japan	Yen	0.008635	0.007947	0.3932
United Kingdom	Pound	1.584809	1.458500	72.1710
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.139333	0.128228	6.3451
Switzerland	Franc	0.687766	0.632951	31.3203
Canada	Dollar	0.702893	0.646872	32.0092
Singapore	Dollar	0.605181	0.556948	27.5595
Australia	Dollar	0.600134	0.552303	27.3296
Bahrain	Dinar	2.882387	2.652661	131.2616
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.289761	0.266667	13.1955
Brunei	Dollar	0.600399	0.552547	27.3417
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000120	0.000110	0.0054
Thailand	Baht	0.025519	0.023485	1.1621
UAE	Dirham	0.295851	0.272272	13.4728
Korea	Won	0.000868	0.000799	0.0395
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.920300	45.5392
Brazil	Real	0.440151	0.403714	19.9770
Denmark	Kroner	0.133494	0.123847	6.1283
India	Rupee	0.022638	0.020433	1.0111
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.291465	0.263158	13.0218
Mexico	New Peso	0.116816	0.105697	5.2302
New Zealand	Dollar	0.503991	0.463499	22.9353
Norway	Kroner	0.132382	0.121917	6.0328
Pakistan	Rupee	0.018473	0.016681	0.8254
South Africa	Rand	0.109430	0.099900	4.9434
Sweden	Kroner	0.108156	0.099953	4.9460
Syria	Pound	0.025341	0.022883	1.1323
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.032117	0.029104	1.4402
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.001107	0.001000	0.0495

March import . . .

From page B1

20.7 percent lower than the previous year's. Imports and exports still contracted by 2.6 percent and 5.3 percent, respectively, from the same quarter last year.

Purchases of electronics and components, which accounted for about a third of the total import bill, rose by 88.8 percent during the period.

Expenditures for office and EDP (electronic data processing) machines, which had a 10.5-percent share, likewise rose by 75.7 percent.

On the other hand, payment for telecommunication equipment and electrical machinery as well as mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials fell by 3.2 percent and 15.1 percent, respectively.

Mike Ordinanza, an analyst with PCI Capital, said the rise in the import bill for the last two months reaffirmed the impending rebound in exports.

The country's exports still dropped although by a meager 0.7 percent in March, the smallest contraction in the last 14 months, as the global economic recovery started to improve offshore demand for local goods.

"Hopefully, the rebound in imports will filter down to domestic consumption," Ordinanza said.

Gokongwei to develop 6-ha Bonifacio property

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GOKONGWEIS' Robinsons Land Corp. will develop a 6-hectare property within the 150-ha. Fort Bonifacio Global City into a mixed-use retail, residential and hotel complex.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, RLC said it had signed a memorandum of understanding with Fort Bonifacio Development Corp. on the property project.

"Current discussions, while at a preliminary stage, are focused on the development of a 6-ha. site in the northeast sector of the Bonifacio Global City, an area earmarked for large retail and mixed use projects," the RLC disclosure said.

"Initial discussions between FBDC and the company are for the development of a mixed-use complex of approximately 500,000 square meters of space," it said.

FDBC, a joint venture between Metro Pacific-controlled Bonifacio Land Co. and the state-owned Bases Conversion Development Authority, is keen on incorporating a vast retail component to the Global City through a combination of land lease, purchase or joint venture development deals.

FBDC senior vice president for operations Vicente Tinsay II said: "The Bonifacio Global City is emerging as a key business, retail and entertainment district for the entire Metro Manila region, and our discussions with the company are solid evidence of the belief developers have in the Bonifacio Global City."

FDBC is expected to sign a similar development agreement with the SM group of retail tycoon Henry Sy soon.

Metro Pacific Corp. chief finance officer Jose Ma. Lim earlier said the setting up of new retail hubs by SM or RLC would be a big boost to the value of the Global City and should likewise provide additional recurring income to FBDC.

"The structures we're talking with these two will be on a co-development basis. There are similarities but there are also differences in the partnership," Lim said.

"And because it's a co-development, we expect returns as a percentage of the economic value of the finished project," he said.

Aside from these big local developers, FBDC is taking to big foreign retailers like Wal-mart Stores Inc. of the United States and Tesco Plc. of the United Kingdom for the establishment of big-box stores in the Global City.

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the annual meeting of the stockholders of **INTERPHIL LABORATORIES, INC.** will be held at **the Makati Sports Club, Salcedo Village, Makati City, Philippines on June 11, 2002 at 3:00 P.M.**

The AGENDA for the meeting shall be as follows:

1. Call to order;
2. Certification by the Corporate Secretary on the sending of notices and existence of a quorum;
3. Reading and Approval of minutes of the last Annual Stockholders' Meeting;
4. Report of the President;
5. Approval of the Financial Statements for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2001;
6. Ratification by a majority vote of the stockholders, of actions taken by the Board of Directors and Officers of the Corporation since the last annual meeting of the stockholders;
7. Election of Directors;
8. Appointment of External Auditors;
9. Transactions of such other matters as may properly come before the meeting;
10. Other Matters;
11. Adjournment.

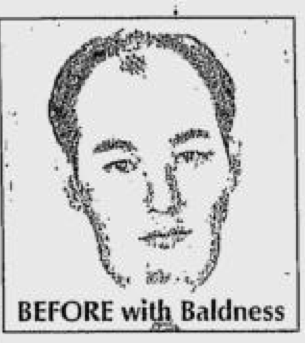
If you are unable to attend the meeting, but would like to be represented thereat, you may submit your proxy to the Corporate Secretary at the Third Floor, Zuellig Building, Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, on or before **June 04, 2002**, together with a board resolution authorizing your representative, in case of corporate stockholders. Proxies received after **June 04, 2002** shall not be recognized for the meeting.

Registration starts at 2:00 P.M. Only stockholders of record as of **May 02, 2002** are entitled to vote and be voted during the meeting. For your convenience in registering your attendance, please have available some form of identifications, such as your Community Tax Certificate, Passport or Driver's License.

Canlubang, Laguna, May 07, 2002.

ANA PERALTA-NAZARENO
Corporate Secretary

TEL. NOS. (049) 549-2345 TO 549-2349; 549-3096 TO 549-3098



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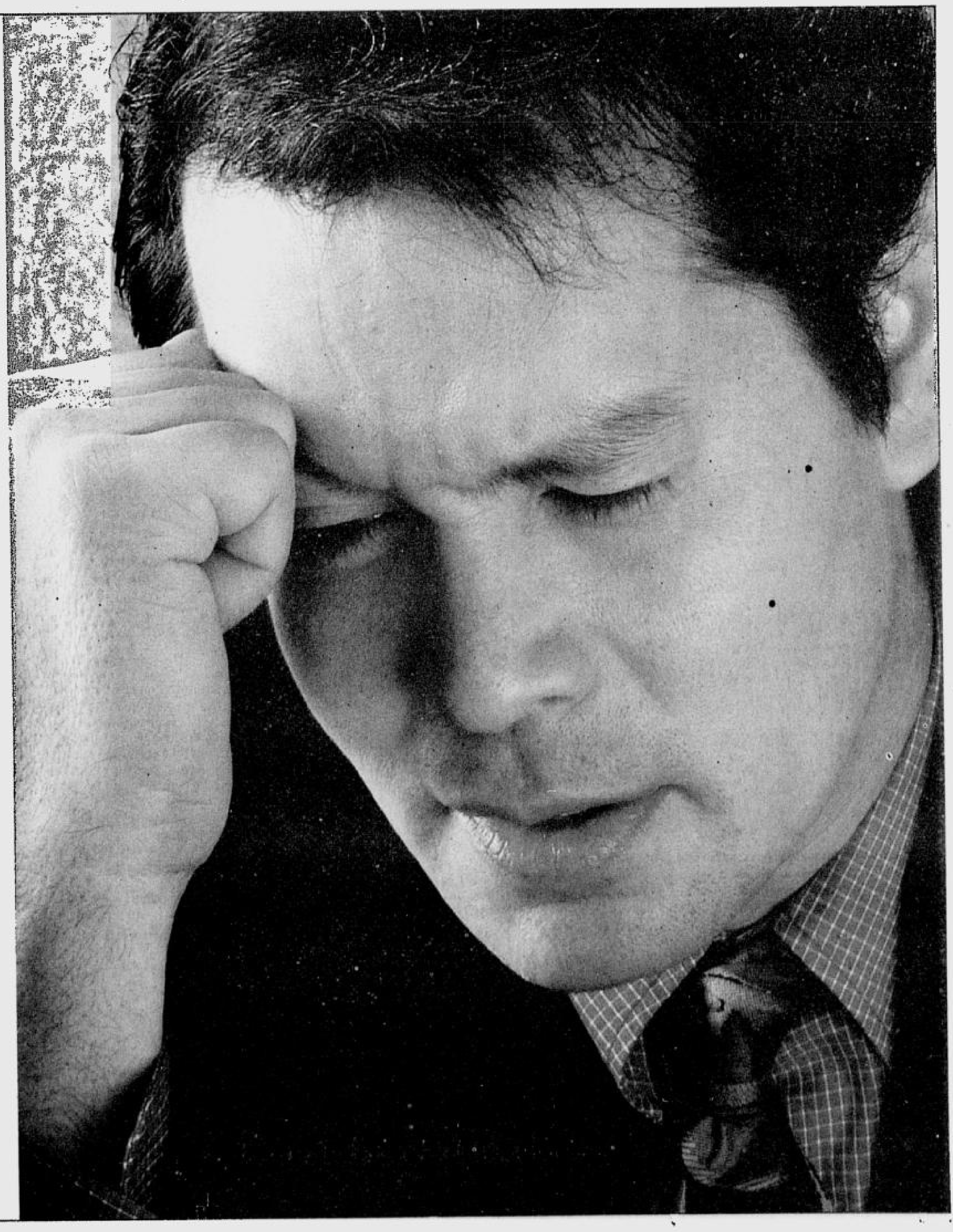


DEEPER FUNK, DOUBLE-DIP RECESSION

Doomsayers ring alarm bells on US recovery

NEW YORK—As the giant US economy zooms out of its first recession in a decade, some doomsayers keep sounding alarm bells that the rebound is poised to sour into a deeper funk—a so-called double-dip recession.

The grim scenario goes something like this: Consumer spending stumbles, unemployment shoots higher, stocks head for another nosedive, dormant inflation turns into suffocating deflation, and the Federal Reserve, having already slashed short-term rates to 40-year lows of 1.75 percent to spur growth, will have little room left to cut rates any more.

"The odds of a double-dip in the US economy are not nearly as low as you have been led to believe," warned Stephen Roach, chief economist at Morgan Stanley.

He was a lone voice in predicting recession in early 2001 and, for months, argued persistently that a return to recession was on the way.

Just recently, US stocks faltered and the dollar trembled as investors fretted that the US economy was headed for more trouble since a much-awaited recovery in corporate profits was nowhere on the horizon.

Part of the fear stems from anxiety that American consumers—who have shouldered the economy through the recession by gleefully snapping up homes and autos—will throw in the towel before business profits and investment returns. That could lead to more layoffs, spending cuts and pain to come.

But for many economists the message to the bleak pessimists is simple—think again.

"The recovery dynamic has started," said Paul Kasriel, chief US economist at Northern Trust in Chicago.

Kasriel cited several positive forces: a Federal Reserve intent on keeping interest rates low, government spending on the rise, building recovery in hard-hit manufacturing, workers logging overtime and capital spending slowly improving.

Yet there are risks, from the heavy debt loads both households and businesses carry, to the persistent weakness in the labor market, seen most recently in the unemployment rise to 7-1/2-year highs in April.

The shock of a terror attack also could reverse the economy's tentative recovery, as could a misstep by the central bank.

"If the Fed were to start to tighten aggressively sooner than later, I think there's a risk of tipping the economy back into recession because of the debt situation in both household and corporate sectors," Kasriel said.

"But the Fed doesn't want to do that. Alan Greenspan has given every indication he wants to hold out as long as possible before raising rates. As long as Alan is afraid to raise rates, that greatly reduces the odds of a double-dip," he said.

Certainly some of the most recent data have shown Americans are in no mood to back down from their shopping sprees. Last week, reports showed retail sales in April surged more than double economists' forecasts. And consumer sentiment soared to levels not seen in 1-1/2 years, implying more shopping to come.

Also last week, Chicago Fed president Michael Moskow confronted questions from one former journalist who brought up the fears of a Dutch trader that the US economy was heading for a double-dip recession.

While Moskow said he did not believe such a scenario would unfold, he did concede that this recovery has been built on the back of the consumer and needs a boost from corporate America.

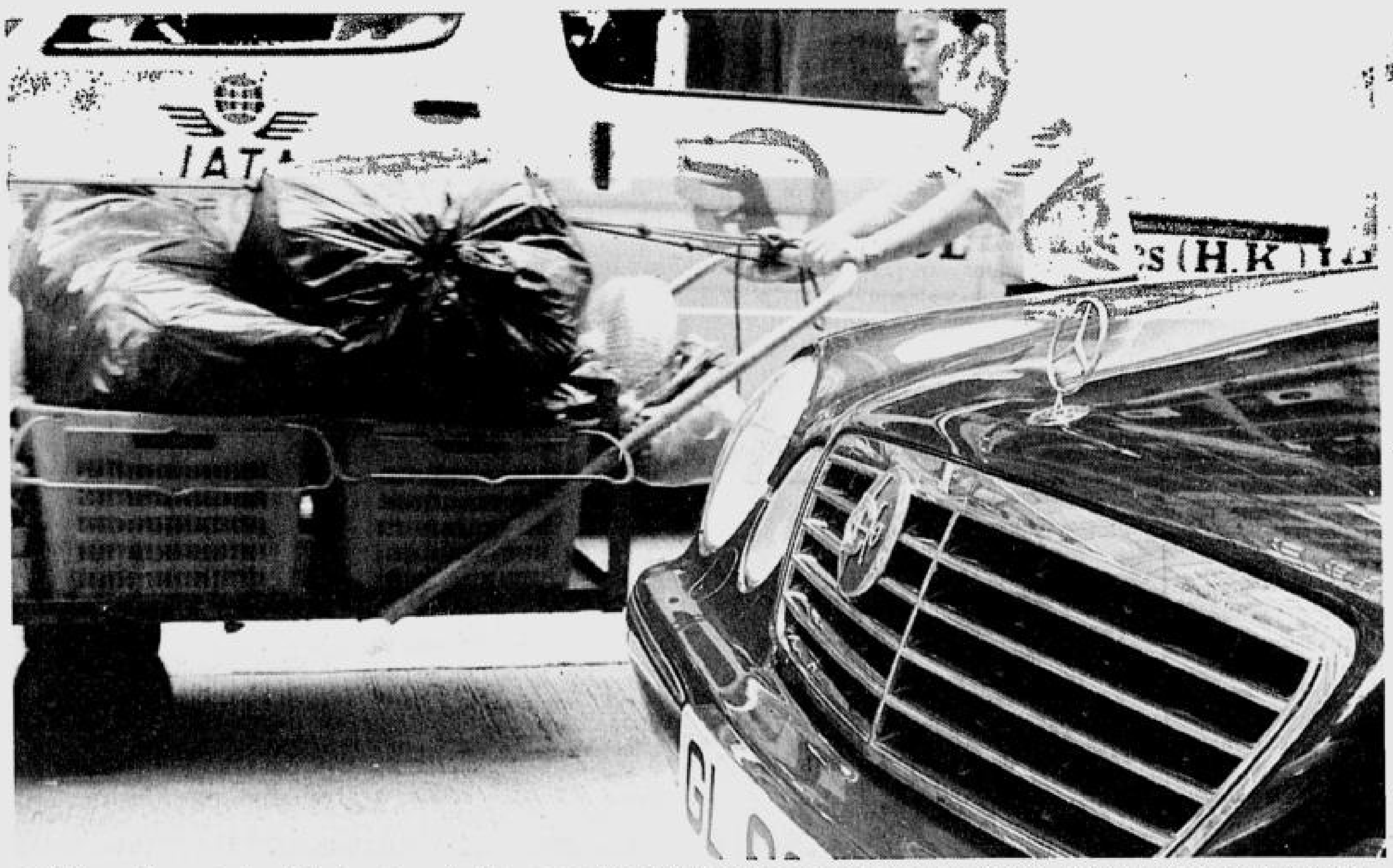
"In order for this to be sustainable, business firms first have to stop reducing their spending, then they have to start increasing their spending," Moskow said.

Perhaps no economist has more ardently argued that the US economy is in bad shape than Morgan Stanley's Roach.

Roach's view is that consumers will run out of steam and the profit squeeze in businesses—exacerbated by high labor costs and the lack of pricing power—will push the economy back into another contraction.

History is on his side, Roach said in a recent research note. In five of the past six recessions the economy has suffered a double-dip recession as consumers pulled back on spending just as businesses were boosting production.

Reuters



A MAN, pushing a trolley full of waste materials, passes by a luxury car in a busy Hong Kong street. Hong Kong's gap between the rich and poor has widened over the years.

AFP

Thai auto industry to stay competitive after Afta

BANGKOK—Thailand's auto industry will remain competitive despite a Southeast Asian free trade plan that will virtually eliminate tariffs in the region, Industry Minister Suriya Jungrungreangkit said Monday.

The local automotive industry would benefit from tax reforms due to bring Thailand in line with the Asean Free Trade Area from the beginning of next year, Suriya said in a report.

"Automobiles assembled locally for domestic and export markets will still be able to compete against the same vehicle models produced in other Asean countries, even after the import duty on finished vehicles is reduced to zero to 5 percent from 30 to 80 percent at present," the minister was quoted by The Nation as saying.

Under the Association of Southeast Asian Nations plan, most members must cut tariffs on imports for agreed products to a maximum of 5 percent by next year.

The local automobile industry would not be damaged by the lower import taxes on finished cars because the duty on some completely knocked down parts would also be cut to zero to five percent from 20-33 percent, an official from the government working committee responsible for the tax restructuring reportedly said.

To offset the lower CKD duty, the excise tax on cars would be increased from the present 3 to 41 percent, Suriya told the newspaper.

However, the reduction of CKD tariffs would be on a selective basis so as not to damage the local auto-parts industry, the official said.

"For parts we cannot produce here, the import tariff will be cut to zero. But for parts we are capable of manufacturing, the duty will remain as a protective measure," the official was quoted as saying.

"The idea is to have a flexible tariff regime where a tax can be changed quickly to respond to changing circumstances."

Suriya said Thailand would not lose its competitiveness due to Afta as some critics have claimed, the paper reported.

Instead, some auto companies would gain as the country has a strong auto-parts industry compared to other Asean countries, he said.

"Companies which might have problems may be ones that have very low volume production and need to import a lot of parts. These are the firms who have expressed concern," the paper quoted the minister as saying.

Asean groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

AFP

BOJ seen standing pat on policy

TOKYO—Japan's economy may be showing signs of emerging from its worst postwar downturn, but analysts expect the Bank of Japan to be alert to risks the US upturn may lose momentum and send Japan deeper into recession.

The BOJ's Policy Board, which begins a two-day meeting on Monday, still needs to tackle Japan's inner weaknesses—chiefly three years of deflation and a debt-laden banking sector—before sharing the budding optimism in the rest of the world.

The board is expected to keep its reserves target at 10 trillion to 15 trillion yen ($78.33 billion to $117.5 billion) and its monthly buying of Japanese government bonds (JGBs) at 1 trillion yen, part of its effective zero interest rate policy.

Economists said the most they expected the BOJ to do was to omit a footnote from its current policy statement that promised more liquidity in case of a financial crisis around the March 31 book-closing.

No major crisis materialized at the financial year-end, and fears of such a disaster waned due to a recovery in stock prices in the past three months.

The government, for its part, declared on Friday that the economy was past its worst, upgrading its view of business conditions for a third month.

But the BOJ is expected to keep its focus on risks rather than recent signs of reward to the economy from exports and inventories.

"With the economy looking more stable, no one is expecting them to change policy," said Toshikimi Kaneki, an economist at Sumitomo Trust and Banking. "But the outlook is still unclear, and there are issues that they need to take a closer look at."

One is whether the BOJ should allow itself to use more unconventional policy tools such as inflation targeting if the economy sinks into a deflationary spiral, in which low corporate profits, weak consumer spending and falling prices feed on each other.

Japan's core consumer price index, which has fallen for three straight years, fell 0.7 percent in April from a year earlier. It is showing little sign of tracking the hefty rise in the monetary base, or funds the central bank supplies to the banking system.

Critics have urged the BOJ to adopt an inflation target and to try to achieve it by buying a wider range of assets such as foreign bonds, stocks and real estate.

Noting that Japan's real interest rates—nominal rates minus the inflation rate—remain high, such advocates say the central bank ought to raise the market's expected inflation levels by setting a target.

Most central bankers oppose the idea, including Governor Masaru Hayami who has repeatedly called it ineffective and risky.

Reuters

Sony planning semiconductor unit in China

TOKYO—Japan's consumer electronics giant Sony Corp. said Monday it might build a new semiconductor assembly plant in China to cut production costs and meet a huge growth in demand.

"The global market is changing so fast, and cost reduction is very important," said a company spokesperson.

"Considering the growth potential of the Chinese market, China is a very attractive location to shift our production facilities," she said.

But nothing concrete had been decided about exactly when and where Sony would build a new semiconductor plant.

"We are considering various possibilities from the viewpoint of reducing our cost," she said, without elaborating.

A weekend news report said Sony had already decided to build a new semiconductor assembly plant in Wuxi, Jiangsu province, where the firm already has a production base for laptop computers, including popular Vaio models.

Sony would invest as much as 10 billion yen ($79.4 million) in building the plant, the Nihon Keizai Shimbun newspaper said Sunday, citing company sources.

"Semi-finished chips will be brought to the plant from Sony's plants in Japan and completed for use in digital cameras and the PlayStation 2 game machines of Sony Computer Entertainment, among other products," the economic daily said.

AFP

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CLSA INVESTORS' FORUM 2002

A WOMAN waits under banners advertising the CLSA Investors Forum 2002 outside the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Hong Kong. The annual forum includes former US President Bill Clinton as one of the keynote speakers.

AFP

Yen rate no threat, official says

TOKYO—A senior Japanese Cabinet Office official said on Monday that the current level of the yen posed no threat to the economy and would likely help support exporters.

"If currency rates stay as they are, I don't see a major problem for the economy," Jun Saito, director of economic assessment and policy analysis at the Cabinet Office, told Reuters television.

Saito's relaxed views are in stark contrast to those of officials directly in charge of foreign exchange policy.

Haruhiko Kuroda, vice finance minister for international affairs, said during the morning that recent moves in the currency markets were nearly out of line with fundamentals and that the Ministry of Finance was ready to act if needed.

A stronger currency makes Japanese exports more expensive and deflates the yen value of income earned abroad.

"We have to see whether the current level of exchange rate will stay as it is or whether it will strengthen," Saito said.

"If the exchange rate stays as it is, I think the exports would grow (and) will continue to provide support to the economy on its way to recovery," he said.

The Cabinet Office last Friday officially declared that the economy was past its worst, saying a pickup in exports had helped it "bottom out."

Gross domestic product shrank in the last three quarters of 2001 but is widely expected to show growth for January-March.

Reuters

Swedish luxury yacht sales find tailwind, as super-rich shop for toys

HENAN, Sweden—The luxury goods market is picking up after a year of economic gloom and the shock of the Sept. 11 attacks, and sales of up-market yachts are booming as the super-rich shop for new toys.

Swedish yacht constructors have ridden the storm and buyers from all over the world—including the British army—are beating a path to the island of Orust off the west coast to order sailing boats built by makers such as Hallberg-Rassy, Malo Yachts and Najad.

While other luxury goods firms, such as ritzy jewelry and fashion houses, have yet to produce hard evidence of the top-bracket rebound which many economists have predicted, Orust shipmakers' order books are fattening up.

Even before Sept. 11, investors lost billions of dollars last year on the US stock market. That, combined with the trauma of the attacks, may have pushed the wealthy to pour more of their money into solid, tangible investments.

"Stock market growth has been rather weak lately and we have lots of people who want to invest their money in something. And there are still many who have a lot of money to spend," Najad chief executive Fredrik Lundberg told Reuters.

And you need a lot of money to buy one of these sleek handmade sailing salons with mahogany-paneled interiors styled like a gentlemen's club.

Fitted with shower stalls, wine racks, fully equipped kitchens and deep, cushioned armchairs—an owner of one of these yachts will not miss the comforts of home.

The smallest Najad model costs 130,600 euros ($119,500), excluding VAT and many interior features. The largest comes with a price tag of at least 576,900 euros ($527,800).

The typical buyer is a man in his fifties with a passion for sailing. He wants a boat comfortable enough to enjoy the good life and built well enough to sail the oceans.

"To buy a boat like this is a dream come true for many," said Hallberg-Rassy's chief executive Magnus Rassy.

"One man walked in here with his wife to buy a yacht. She had never wanted a boat and said he'd have to choose between the boat or her. He returned two years later to buy a boat—with another wife on his arm," Rassy said.

Lundberg said building the yachts was a delicate craft.

Reuters

CHINA CHALLENGE

DTI seeks more incentives

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry is pushing for a generous incentive package—including a 5-percent gross corporate tax, income tax breaks of up to 12 years and duty-free importation of capital equipment—so the Philippines can snatch part of the foreign capital gushing into China.

Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II yesterday assured local and foreign businessmen that the Macapagal administration would lobby anew for changes in the Omnibus Investments Act.

The trade department is pushing for a fiscal incentive package in Congress that it is asking the Department of Finance to support.

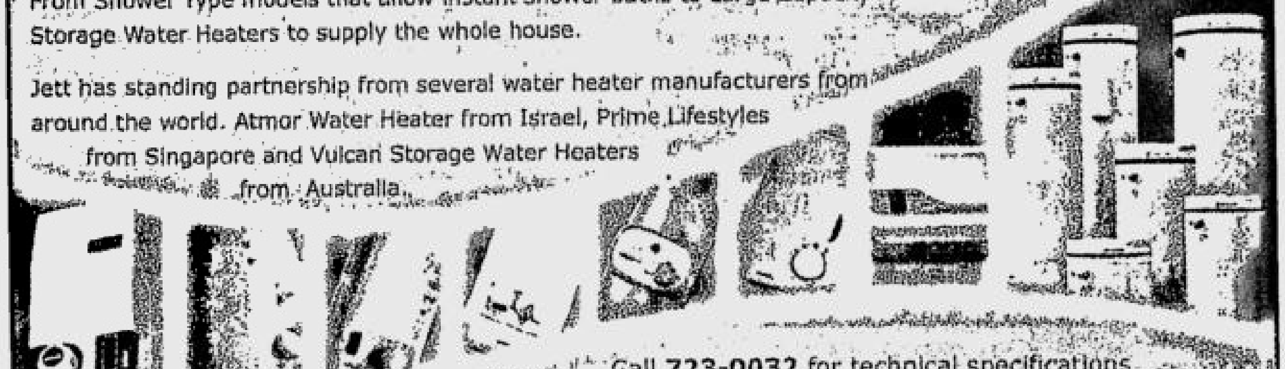
"We have set a deadline on our discussion with the DOF. We cannot tell the final form of our incentives package because we can only tell what we want because the DOF obviously has a different priority, which is to collect taxes," Roxas said.

He said the trade department was keen on giving a preferred tax of 5 percent of adjusted gross income to all investors, including those operating outside the country's economic zones.

At present, only companies registered with the Philippine Economic Zone Authority can avail of the 5-percent gross income tax, which is a steep discount to the regular 32-percent tax cut.

Roxas said the DTI was batting to stretch the maximum income tax holiday from eight to 12 years.

He said, however, that the trade department was likely to reach a compromise with the DOF where the tax holiday would be capped at 10 years, except for "exceptional investments" that could get up to 12 years.



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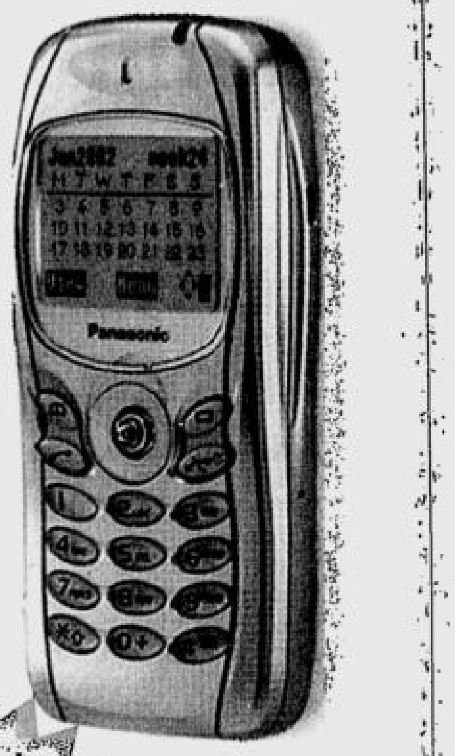

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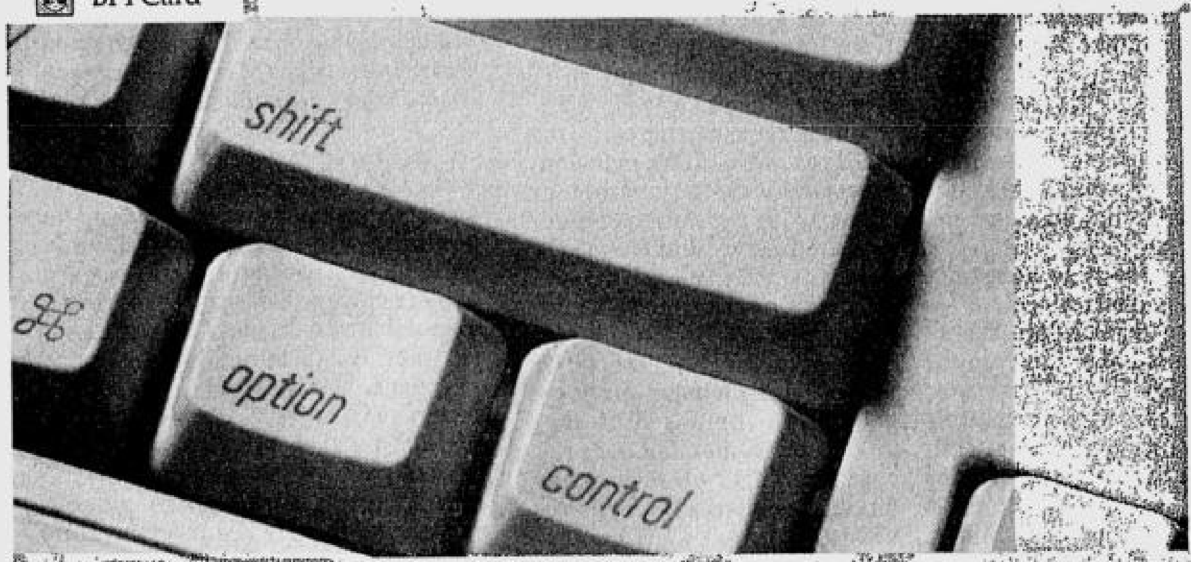

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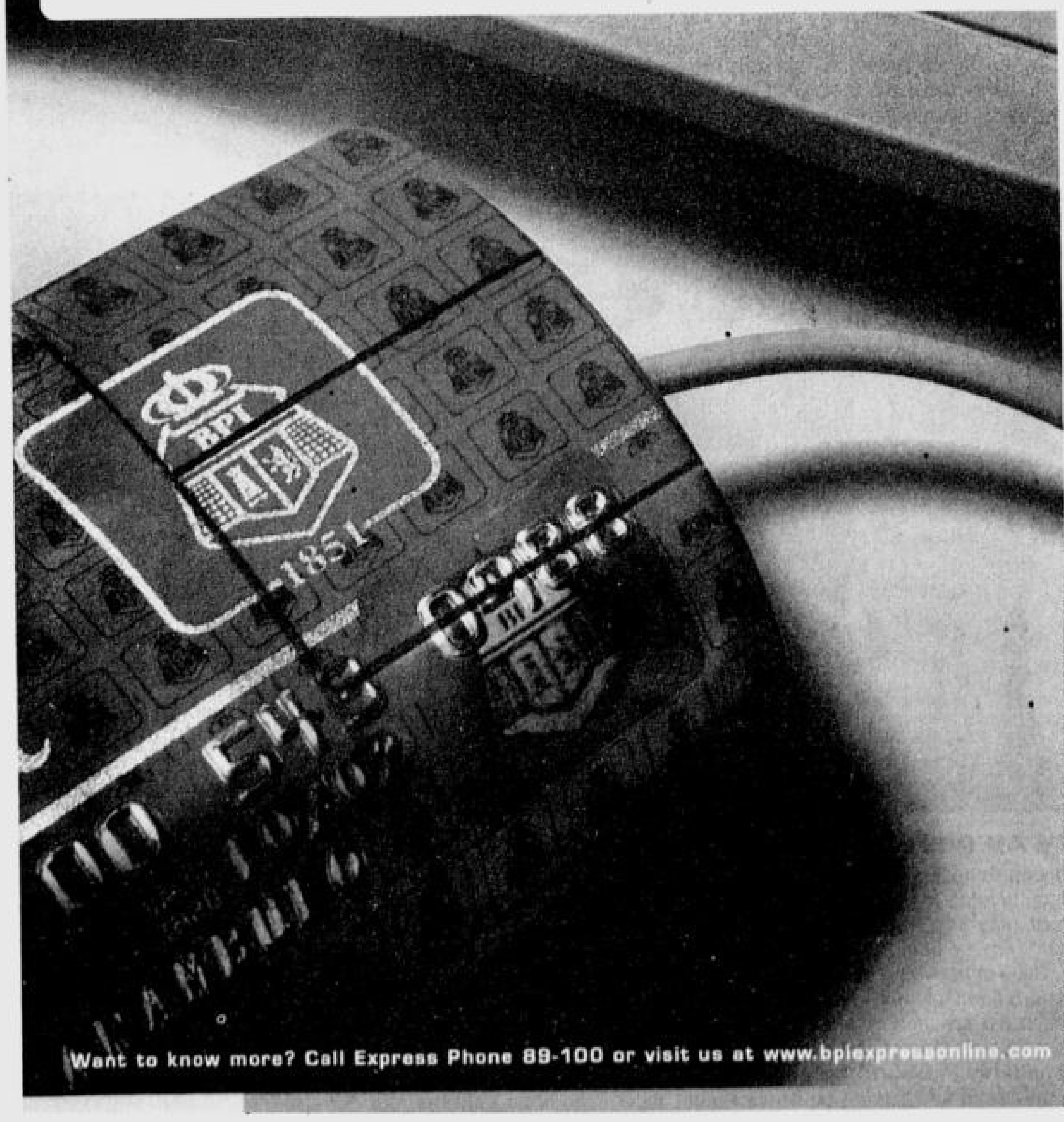

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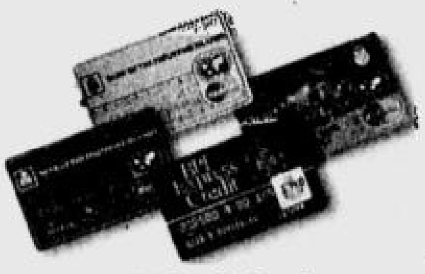

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integrated marketing communications from PMA

IT TAKES a full cycle of communications vehicles to successfully market a product or service. These days, those vehicles also thread together management channels just to ensure a holistic and strategic approach to brand or business planning.

The Philippine Marketing Association, through its Marketing Institute of the Philippines, is offering a three-day seminar on Integrated Marketing Communications (IMC) to be held on May 21, 22 and 24 at Dusit Hotel Ipil-Ipil Room in Makati City. IMC practitioners will discuss topics in the fields of marketing, advertising, public relations, direct marketing, promotions, advocacy and social marketing.

According to PMA IMC seminar director Connie C. Cagahastian, president of Corporate Schemes and Marketing, integrated marketing communications is "the method of carefully weaving together marketing activities to produce a consistent, single and unique message that creates in the customer a mindset for the product or service being promoted. In a focused IMC setting, each of the marketing tools plays a dynamic, or even innovative, roles. Each is an anchor for the others, triggering a communications platform that result in a one-look, one-feel take-away for the brand."

"Integrating the communications process in marketing is like developing experiential campaigns with multiple touch points that bond the brand with consumers in ways that they, the consumers, cannot easily forget," Cagahastian said.

"Consumers need a feeling. Without emotion, a product is just a product. Moving across different channels before it reaches the user, a product must carve out a set of unique attributes as it prepares to lodge in the customer's consciousness. Once there, it must create pleasurable memories of the product that will build brand connectivity and increase its lifetime value in the process," she added.

The IMC discipline creates synergy. It means each tool of marketing creates more impact working jointly with other elements in the marketing mix to push a product or service, than it would on its own. Cagahastian said organizations benefit from integrated marketing communications because it builds stronger customer loyalty with increasing repeat business; creates more powerful impact and allows for greater cost effectiveness.

The full schedule of the seminar are as follows: May 21, 1 p.m.—"Seminar Brief: The Role of Integrated Marketing Communications in Strategy and Planning" by Cagahastian; 1:30 p.m.—"Hooking up the Channels of Marketing Communications—the integrated approach to go-to market processes" by Jerry Kliatko, Ph. D., executive director, Institute of Communication, University of Asia and the Pacific; 3:45 p.m. "When Public Relations take the lead in Marketing Communications": Cagahastian, president, Corporate Schemes and Marketing.

May 22, 1:30 p.m.—"So effective they're no longer non-traditional," so-called non-traditional approaches to marketing communication" by Carmelita L. Lorenzo, chief, trade and industry office, Marikina City; 3:45 p.m. "Advocacy and Social Marketing: the soul of corporate business that influence product performance in the marketplace" by Rosalina De la Paz-Magat, senior vice president, Strategic Planning and Research, Development Bank of the Philippines.

May 24, 1:30 p.m. "Guerilla Marketing—Surprise encounters in the marketplace: Marketing "attacks" that derail and deflect competitive moves. Achieving conventional goals with unconventional methods" by Pinky Abellada, vice president, account management, AB Communications; 3:30 p.m., "Ethical Implications of your Integrated Approach to Marketing Communications—exercising prudence and sound judgment in the implementation of IMC."

For more information, kindly call

DOLE, SSS, PSBANK SOCIAL PROGRAM

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and PSBank president Pascual M. Garcia III give out passbooks to informal sector workers who signed up during the program launch of the Dole-SSS-PSBank Protection Program. The program is a joint undertaking of the Social Security System and the Department of Labor and Employment and Philippine Savings Bank. It will provide informal sector workers—self-employed, voluntary members, and non-salaried employees—coverage with the SSS and will help them sustain SSS premium contribution payments monthly through a nominal amount they can deposit to PSBank. The project is part of Metrobank subsidiary PSBank's Corporate Social Responsibility Program.

Digital hearing aids confab in Vietnam

LEDESMA

DR. NELLY R. Ledesma, the only Filipino fellow of the American Academy of Audiology (AAA) and vice chair of the Ledesma Audiological Center Inc. (Laci), will be one of the speakers at the Asean Widex Academy Course in Digital Signal Processing (DSP) Technology at the Caravelle Hotel, Ho Chi Minh (Saigon), Vietnam from May 21 to 26. She will talk on the first 25 years of Audiology practice in the Philippines.

Audiologists Tina Henriksen and Lise Bryan Henningsen from Copenhagen, Denmark, and Mads Prebensen, international sales and marketing coordinator of Widex, will compose the training team for the course. Topics to be discussed are features and rationale of DSP hearing aids, introduction to Senso Diva 100-percent digital, introduction to Compass V3, fitting Senso Diva using Compass exercises, Compass as a fitting tool and fine-tuning tool, fitting Senso Diva using SP3 (exercises and pre-fitting considerations).

Participants are Asean hearing aid specialists, ENT doctors, technicians, and other para-medical specialists involved in the hearing health care of the hearing-impaired. Delegates from the Philippines are Marilou A. Mempin, hearing specialist, and Darwin B. Ancajas, service manager of the Ledesma Audiological Center Inc.

meridian
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MERIDIAN AT COMMASIA 2002

Meridian Telekoms Inc., the first and leading wireless broadband Internet solutions provider in the Philippines, gives guests and visitors of CommAsia 2002 a chance to experience high-speed wireless Internet broadband access during the three-day exhibit held on May 9-11. CommAsia 2002 is a project of IIR Exhibitors Philippines Inc. and the Philippine Electronics and Telecommunications Federation (PETEF). (From left) IIR managing director for Asia Patrick Tan, Department of Transportation and Communications, Undersecretary Agustin R. Bengzon, representing President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Deputy Assistant Secretary of US Department of Commerce for Asia Pacific Chiling Tong, Meridian marketing specialist Kookie Alabanza, Meridian vice president for sales and marketing Ricky Pena, PETEF president Dave Fernando, and vice president of PETEF Maureen V. Santiago at the opening.

Hog-raisers confab set

THE NATIONAL Federation of Hog Farmers, Inc. (NFHFI) will hold their 11th annual National Convention and Exhibit on May 24 and 25 at the SM Megatrade Hall.

The theme "Ginintuang Masaganang Ani sa Pagbababoyan" reflects how hog farmers throughout the nation have thrown their support behind the priorities of the present administration in developing the agricultural sector to achieve food security, spur countryside development and generate employment.

"We are happy to announce that this national convention has been blessed with the presence of the most reputable names in the hog-raising industry. The overwhelming number of exhibitors and convention attendees confirms that the Philippines hog-raising industry is indeed alive and 'oinking'," says Albert Lim, Jr., chair of the convention.

It will feature the latest in service and product displays from local and international manufacturers of automation equipment, veterinary products, pharmaceuticals and feeds. Another highlight of the event is a seminar on modern swine production methods and combating the most common diseases that afflict hogs.

According to the most recent figures released by the Bureau of Animal Industry of the Department of Agriculture, the per capita pork consumption in the country increased to 16 kilos in 2000 from 14 kilos in 1995.

"This increase in consumption as well as government support for the livestock sector as a whole has allowed the hog industry to post a 4.4 increase in production," says Nemesio G. Co, national chairman and chief founding father of NFHFI.

Under the leadership of Co, the NFHI has actively lobbied in Congress and various government agencies for legislative and administrative measures targeted at protecting the sustainability and efficiency of the country's hog-raising industry.

Established in 1990, the NFHFI is a non-stock and non-profit organization composed of over 2,000 hog farmers all over the country. This federation was formed to enhance the opportunities for growth, efficiency, equity and sustainability of the hog farming industry as a whole. The hog-raising industry is currently valued at P83.5 billion which represent a total consumption of 1,58 million metric tons of pork every year.

The two-day "Ginintuang Masaganang Ani sa Pagbababoyan" exhibit and seminar series is open to the general public. Interested parties may call the NFHFI convention secretariat at 725-3618 or 726-3644.

Non-trad marketing communications

SALES and marketing executives, brand and product managers, advertising and promotions executives who need to know the essence of measuring marketing decisions are invited to attend a whole-day intensive seminar on Non-Traditional Marketing Communications on May 29 at Dusit Hotel Nikko, Ayala Center, Makati City.

Renowned marketing guru Ricky de Vera will lead participants in understanding the framework wherein non-traditional marketing communications works. From the qualitative process and systems that characterize decision-making process, the course of the seminar will introduce participants to quantitative techniques and formulas to aid participants in forecasting and measuring consumer response, return on promotions, and gauging the effectiveness of the non-traditional marketing program.

Non-traditional vehicles such as direct mail campaigns, direct response advertising, telemarketing and continuity programs will be given focus in the discussions. Exercises on the application of mathematical theorems will be an integral part of each session to which end the participants will be guided on how to evaluate marketing decisions.

For more details and to register, participants can call the organizer Meeting Points International at 895-5735, 895-2392, telefax 890-7532, or e-mail meetings@philonline.com. Meeting Points International is the training arm of Expovision Trade Services Inc.

MCDONALD'S 'KAREN' BAGS TV AD OF THE YEAR

McDonald's Philippines' TV commercial titled "Karen" was adjudged recently as TV Ad of the Year by the Creative Guild of the Philippines for 2001. Conceptualized, created and executed by Hemisphere Leo Burnett (HLB), the ad also won TV Best Copy and TV Best Casting. The internationally and locally acclaimed TV ad has also reaped numerous awards which includes Pana Ad of the Year 2001, a gold for the Asia Pacific Adfest , Best Ad in the Food and Beverage category of the Ateneo de Manila's Collegiate Society of Advertising, and plaques of recognition from the Alzheimer's Disease Association of the Philippines and civic organization Teodora. Receiving the award are the creators of "Karen," (from left) Thierry Notz, director; HLB's Mike de la Cuesta, senior art director; Sheila de la Cuesta, associate creative director; Richard Irvine, executive director and Edsel Tolentino, group creative director.

COMPASS TRAVELS' COURTESY CALL TO MAGSAYSAY

JB Pallasigue, president of Compass Travel and Tours Corp. and a member of the Networks of Independent Travel Agencies (Nitas), pays courtesy call to Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. to express the industry's support on holiday economics program of the government. The visit also aims to urge the senator to pass a resolution calling for a review of tourism curriculums offered by various colleges and universities..

PRODUCTIVITY FORUM

ASAP TV AD PRODUCTION SEMINAR

The Advertising Suppliers Association of the Philippines (Asap) will be holding its TV Commercial Production seminar from June 3 to 5 at the Garcia Villa/Balagtas/Balmori rooms of The Peninsula Manila Hotel from 1 to 5 p.m. daily. The seminar will cover all aspects of TV commercial production, from pre-production, actual production to post-production. Asap has invited distinguished guest speakers and professionals to discuss the different areas of TV ad production. This seminar is the first offering this year of the Productivity seminars series, which the Asap launched last year. Shown at the Productivity seminar on events management held August last year at the Peninsula Manila Hotel were (from left) Ed Arcilla, director, Alvin Manacsa, chair, Afif Khodr, president, Dodie Lucas of Roadrunner Network, Mackoy Villaroman, director, Michelle Navato and Dondi Santos of Tahanang Walang Hagdan, and Rick Hawthorne, treasurer. For particulars, call the Asap secretariat at 893-0564 or 893-0738 and look for Lolit Diezmo.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

Notice to the public
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RJV COSMOPOLITAN BUILDERS, INC. w/ SEC registration no. E200200012 dated January 10, 2002

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late JOAQUIN VITOR was extrajudicially settled by their heirs per Doc# 472 Book#10 Page#96 Series of 1987 Notary Public Roynaldo Bernardo of Rizal PDI 5-21,28 6-4, 2002

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that AYALA CORP CERT. Nos. 3077, 14738, 27410, 7214695, 7223807, 7216327 issued to Maria Catherine T. Corda & Dannel R. Alejandrino have been lost. If no contest received new certificate will be issued.
(PDI-May 14, 21 & 28, 2002)

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2002

OBITUARIES

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EDMUNDO (BABY) DE LA PAZ-ONGSIAKO, SR.

Peacefully joined our Lord on May 17, 2002

He is survived by his wife **Hideliza (Delly) Tambunting-Ongsiako**; children **Antonio Ramon (Tonyboy) T. Ongsiako**, **Edmundo** and **Natividad (Vida) Maronilla**; **Margarita (Gaita)** and **Emmanuel Tan-Climaco**; grandchildren **Regina Angela M. Ongsiako**, **Michelle O. Tan-Climaco**; brothers and sisters **Oscar** (†) and **Norie Villanueva-Ongsiako**, **Ramon** and **Cecille Hidalgo**, **Imelda** and **Ramon** (†) **Cojuangco**, **Gov. Carmen** and **Edmundo Reyes, Sr.**, **Miriam** and **Rodolfo Montelibano**; mother-in-law **Aurora P. Tambunting**; brothers- and sisters-in-law **Jose** and **Fining Tambunting**, **Ramon P. Tambunting** (†), **Teresita T. Liboro**, **Antonio, Jr.** and **Nancy Tambunting**, **Jesus** and **Margarita Tambunting**, **Milagros Tambunting** and **Gil G. Puyat, Jr.**, and nieces and nephews.

Baby's remains will lie in state at the Santuario de San Jose, Greenhills East, Mandaluyong City on Tuesday, May 21, 2002.

Interment will be at the Manila Memorial Park in Sucat, Parañaque on Thursday, May 23, 2002, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

"When life reaches its sunset, it doesn't mean the end of a journey; it marks a new beginning of eternal peace. Rise up and take God's hand."

FLORENTINO M. MAGUNDAYAO

of Dalipit West, Alitagtag, Batangas
Born October 16, 1928

Died in the Grace of our Lord on May 18, 2002.

Beloved husband of **Rosario Castillo Magundayao**; loving father of **Hermie** and **Gemma Magundayao**, **Ding** and **Carina Magundayao**, **Dra. Hoover** and **Mercy Lapuz**, **Louie** and **Fe Manuel**, **Bing** and **Nora Pamittan**, **Dr. Boy** and **Nonette de Guzman**, **Joey** and **Yolly Magundayao**, **Dr. Philip** and **Flor Cucio**, **Lito** and **Cora Mendoza**, **Maynard** and **Eva Martinez**, **Hermie** and **Liza Cabalang**, **Engr. Ogie Magundayao**, **Joy** and **Marichu Magundayao** and **Connie Magundayao**; caring grandfather of **Khay Ann**, **Kim**, **Kathleen**, and **Lee Justin Magundayao**, **Ging**, **Tristan** and **Karen Magundayao**. **April**, **MM** and **Ton-Ton Lapuz**, **Raisa** and **Mikhail Manuel**, **Norby Pamittan**, **BG**, **Jun-Jun**, **AC** and **Mer De Guzman**, **Ryan**, **Jolly-Ann** and **Kris Magundayao**, **Rose-Ann** and **Ian Cucio**, **Cyrus Mendoza** and **Faye Magundayao**.

His remains lie in state at the Magundayao's Residence, Dalipit West, Alitagtag, Batangas.

Interment will be on Saturday, May 25, 2002 at 1:00 p.m. at Alitagtag Cemetery, Alitagtag, Batangas.

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies, and whoever believes in Me will never die."
(John 11:25-26)

So Lovingly Remembered
on his first Death Anniversary

JOSE MANUEL L. VILLANUEVA

who passed on to eternal life on May 21, 2001

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass shall be offered at the following churches:

1.	Mt. Carmel	6:00 AM, 7:00 AM & 6:00 PM
2.	St. Joseph's Convent of Perpetual Adoration	6:00 AM
3.	Santuario de San Jose	7:15 AM
4.	Mary the Queen	7:00 AM
5.	MMC Chapel	7:30 AM
6.	Loyola Memorial Park	8:00 AM
7.	Carmelite Monastery of St. Therese	6:30 AM
8.	St. Martin's Church, Sunnyvale, CA,	5:00 PM
9.	St. Joseph's Church, Mountainview, CA.	8:00 AM

The family request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

So Lovingly Remembered
On her 10th Death Anniversary

SUSANA S. LIWAG

of Cabanatuan City
who joined our Creator on May 21, 1992

Holy Masses will be offered at the following churches:

Dambana ng Ina ng Laging Saklolo, *Cabanatuan City*	6:00 AM
St. Nicholas of Tolentine, Cathedral, *Cabanatuan City*	5:15 PM
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Monastery, *Cabanatuan City*	6:00 PM
San Isidro Labrador Parish Church, *Talavera, Nueva Ecija*	6:00 AM
St. Rita's College Chapel, *Plaza del Carmen, Manila*	6:00 AM
Sta. Maria della Strada Parish, *Katipunan Avenue, Quezon City*	12:00 NN

She now lives with God and in our hearts forever. We, the family, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the repose of her soul.

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord." Matthew 10:39

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INQUIRER
TRiViA
By BONG BARRAMEDA

Hear ye, hear ye

The range of human hearing is from approximately 16 to about 20,000 cycles (vibrations) per second, which covers about 10 octaves. To give you an idea of what this means, take note that the human voice can make sounds from 100 to 6,000 cycles per second. We simply miss out on really high-frequency sounds that animals can hear. This is the reason why your cat is better at catching mice than you are: mice utter high-pitched squeaks that are inaudible to you – but not to your cat. However, you should be grateful that the human ear cannot hear frequencies below 16 cycles. If it could, you would never know silence; you would hear, without let-up, the sounds of air molecules colliding with one another.

Ooops! Contrary to popular belief, the Dutch painter did not cut off his ear – actually, he only sliced off a portion of his left ear lobe. The event followed two months of hard work, heavy drinking, and an argument the day before with his friend and fellow expressionist painter Paul Gaugain. Van Gogh's deteriorating mental condition precipitated the self-mutilation on December 23, 1888 in the house he shared with Gaugain in Arles, France. However, the story is true that he wrapped the piece of ear in a package and presented it to a local prostitute who had preferred Gaugain to himself.

WORD WATCH

Hikaw : from the Chinese *hi* ('ear') + *kau* ('hook').

PDI – May 21, 2002

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Labor and Employment
Overseas Workers Welfare Administration

OWWA Center, F.B. Harrison St.
Cor 7th St., Pasay City
P.O Box 1817 Manila, Philippines
Zip Code - 1300
Tels [illegible] Fax: [illegible]
Telex: 27784 OWWA - PH

RE-INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) invites all interested bidders to apply for eligibility screening and if subsequently found eligible, to bid for the performance of STRUCTURAL VERIFICATION TEST on the OWWA Center Building. Total approved budget for the project is Php 1,170,000.00.

The works to be performed in providing structural verification tests, consists of:

01. **Soil Investigation** (Standard Penetration Test, Determination of Water content, Atterberg Limits Test, Particle Size Analysis and Permeability Test)
02. **Destructive Testing** (Chipping-off, Concrete Coring and Compressive Strength Testing, Steel Sampling and Tensile Strength Testing)
03. **Non-Destructive Testing** (Rebound Hammer Test and Covermeter Test)
04. **Miscellaneous Exploratory Works**

Prospective bidder opting to bid for partial or one (1) or two (2) items only will automatically disqualified.

Related bidding activities are as follows:

a. Submission of Letter of Intent	-	June 03, 2002
b. Submission of Requirements For Eligibility	-	June 05, 2002
c. Notice of Eligibility (eligibility/ineligibility)	-	June 11, 2002
d. Distribution of Bid Documents	-	June 14, 2002
e. Site Inspection	-	June 18, 2002
f. Pre-Bid Conference	-	June 20, 2002
g. Submission and Opening of Bids	-	June 28, 2002

The OWWA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and accept the offer most advantageous to the Administration. OWWA assumes no obligation for whatever losses that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of bids nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

For more information please call at phone number 833-1013 or 833-1010.

(Sgd.) **MR. RUSTICO SM. DELA FUENTE**
Chairperson, OWWA PBAC

(PDI--May 19, 20 & 21, 2002)

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
SELECTED AIRPORT (TRUNKLINE) DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
Special Prequalification, Bids and Awards Committee (SPBAC)

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION

Date: 17 May 2002
Contract No.: SAPD/BCD/01

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has received ODA Loans from Japan Bank for International Cooperation, hereinafter referred to as JBIC, in the total amount of 17,471 million Yen toward the cost of the Selected Airports (Trunkline) Development Project, Loan Agreement Nos. PH-P190 and PI-P219, signed on 10 September 1998 and 30 May 2001 respectively, and intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of the loan to payments under the contract for which this Invitation for Prequalification is issued. Disbursement of the ODA Loan by JBIC will be subject, in all respects, to the terms and conditions of the Loan Agreement, including the disbursement procedures and the 'Guidelines for Procurement under JBIC ODA Loans'. No party other than the Government of the Republic of the Philippines shall derive any rights from the Loan Agreement or have any claim to Loan proceeds. The above Loan Agreement will cover only a part of the project cost. As for the remaining portion, the Government of the Republic of the Philippines will take appropriate measures for finance.
2. JBIC requires that bidders and contractors, as well as the Government of the Republic of the Philippines, under contracts funded with JBIC ODA Loans and other Japanese ODA, observe the highest standard of ethics during the procurement and execution of such contracts. In pursuance of this policy, JBIC;
   (a) will reject a proposal for award if it determines that the bidder recommended for award has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for the contract in question;
   (b) will recognize a contractor as ineligible, for a period determined by JBIC, to be awarded a contract funded with JBIC ODA Loans if it at any times determines that the contractor has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for, or in executing, another contract funded with JBIC ODA Loans or other Japanese ODA.
3. The Department of Transportation and Communications, hereinafter referred to as "the Employer," intends to prequalify contractors for the following works under this project:

   The Work under this Contract comprises all Works associated with and incidental to the Development of the New Bacolod (Silay) Airport under the Selected Airports (Trunkline) Development Project located at Silay City, Negros Occidental.

   The full extent of the Works are described in the Drawings, Specifications and Bills of Quantities but generally comprises (i) Civil Works; (ii) Architectural/. Structural Works; (iii) Electrical Works; (iv) Mechanical Works; (v) Air Navigation System; (vi) Aviation Fuel Supply System and (vii) Supply of Command Car for Rescue and Fire Fighting.
4. It is expected that Invitations to Bid will be made in September 2002.
5. Prequalification is open to firms and voluntarily formed joint ventures and joint operations (herein after collectively referred to as "Joint Ventures") from all countries and areas, in accordance with the Guidelines for Procurement under JBIC ODA Loans.
6. Foreign contractor applicants should be licensed in their country/area and authenticated by their embassy/consulate in the Philippines. Local contractor applicants should be registered and classified by the Inter-Agency Committee on Registration and Classification of Contractors as Large "B" for "Airport Horizontal Structures, Airport Navigation Facilities and Airport Building" and holding PCAB "AAA" license. In case of a Joint Venture, each of the members must satisfy the registration and classification requirements in order to meet, jointly and severally, any and all obligations which the Joint Venture may incur.
7. Eligible applicants may obtain the prequalification documents by presenting a Letter of Request and payment of the sum described in item (8) below from 03 June 2002 to 07 June 2002 (8:00 hours to 17:00 hours) at:

   The Project Director
   Selected Airports (Trunkline) Development Project
   DOTC - Project Management Office
   Unit 7D, 7th Floor, Strata 2000 Building
   Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605, Metro Manila
   Telephone: +63 (2) 637-1187, Facsimile: +63 (2) 637-3061
8. The request must clearly state "Request for Prequalification Documents for Contract No. SADP/BCD/01, the Development of New Bacolod (Silay) Airport under the Selected Airports (Trunkline) Development Project. The documents are available upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of 10,000 Pesos or US$200 at DOTC Cashier's Office, 5th Floor, the Columbia Tower, Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong City. The Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) will promptly dispatch the documents either by direct pick-up of the Applicant's representative or by registered airmail, but under no circumstances will DOTC be held responsible for late delivery or loss of the documents so mailed.
9. A minimum experience and financial requirements for qualification:
   (a) the firm responsible for the installation of (i) air navigation system and (ii) aviation fuel and supply system shall either be a Joint Venture Partner (in case of Joint Venture) or a Specialist Subcontractor designated/appointed by the Applicant.
   (b) the Applicant (collectively in case of JV) shall have an average annual turnover (defined as billing for work in progress and completed) as prime contractor over the last 5 years of US$ 100 million equivalent;
   (c) the Applicant (collectively in case of JV) shall have certified experience as prime contractor in the successful execution of at least three (3) projects (at least one [1] project of which should be outside its home country) of a nature and complexity comparable to the proposed contract for each of the following major project components within the last 10 years:

MAJOR PROJECT COMPONENTS	MINIMUM CONTRACT VALUE FOR EACH PROJECT (US Dollar equivalent)
Runway, Taxiway and/or Apron	US $ 9M
Airport Passenger Terminal Building, Control Tower and/or Operations Building	US $ 9M

   (d) the Joint Venture Partner or the Specialist Subcontractor who shall be responsible in providing the specialized inputs (i, e, air navigation systems and/or aviation fuel supply systems) shall individually have certified experience as prime contractor in the successful execution of at least three (3) projects of a nature and complexity comparable to the proposed contract within the last 10 years: The minimum value of each project is specified below:

MAJOR PROJECT COMPONENTS (Specialized Inputs)	MINIMUM CONTRACT VALUE FOR EACH PROJECT (US Dollar equivalent)
Air Navigation System	US $ 8.5M
Aviation Fuel Supply System	US $ 5.5M

   (e) the Applicant (Lead Partner in case of JV) shall have certified experience as prime contractor in the successful execution of at least one (1) project of transportation civil works in an ASEAN country within the last 10 years. The minimum value of each project shall e US$ 10 million equivalent;
   (f) the Applicant (collectively in case of JV) should have submitted a Bank Letter stating that such Bank considers to issue a specific credit line of at least US$ 20 million to meet the construction cash flow requirement for the Construction of New Bacolod (Silay) Airport, when and if the contract is awarded to the Applicant.
   (g) the Applicant (each Partner in case of JV) shall demonstrate, by submission of audited financial statement, positive ordinary profit for at least three (3) years out of the last five (5) years.
   (h) the Lead Partner (in case the Applicant is a Joint Venture) shall be a Contractor engaged in construction and/or civil works and shall meet not less than 40% of the qualifying criteria given under items 9 (b) and 9 (f) above.
   (i) Each of the other partners (in case the Applicant is a Joint Venture) shall meet individually not less than 25% of the qualifying criteria given in items 9 (b) and 9 (f) above.
10. Submissions of Applications for Prequalification must be received in sealed envelopes, either delivered by hand or by registered mail to:

    The Chairman
    Special Prequalification, Bids and Awards Committee
    Selected Airport (Trunkline) Development Project
    Unit 7D, 7th Floor, Strata 2000 Building,
    Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, Metro Manila
    not later than: 17:00 hours on 22 July 2002

    and be clearly marked "Application to Prequalify for Contract No. SADP/BCD 01', the Development of New Bacolod (Silay) Airport under the Selected Airports (Trunkline) Development Project."
11. The Department of Transportation and Communications reserves the right to accept or reject late applications.
12. Applicants will be advised, in due time, of the results of their applications. Only firms and Joint Ventures prequalified under this procedure will be invited to bid.

(Sgd.) **ALAN ADENA TAN**
Assistant Secretary, and
SPBAC Chairman

(PDI--May 18, 21 & 31, 2002)

OBITUARIES

CATALINA "Taling" M. DAGCUTAN

Peacefully joined her Creator
on May 19, 2002 at the age of 69.

Her beloved husband **Felipe**; children and grandchildren and other relatives mourn her passing and pray for her eternal rest.

Her body lies in state at Bahay Ugnayan - Samson Vigil Spaces at 145 Bayan Luma, Imus, Cavite.

Interment will be on Thursday, May 23, 2002 after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at Bahay Ugnayan.

BENJAMIN MERCADO SEMPIO

Peacefully joined our Creator
on May 18, 2002 at the age of 76.

His remains lie in state at
St. Peter Memorial Chapels,
Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be announced later.

Always caring...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
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FREE OBIT DESIGN

DR. OLIMPIO T. ROQUE

December 17, 1910 - May 18, 2002

Dr. Roque, a retired roentgenologist, died Saturday in Manila. He was 91.

He worked 21 years for the Department of Health, was senior radiologist at Medical Center Manila and a faculty member of UST College of Medicine, his alma mater.

During World War II, he was a medical officer with USAFFE, retiring as a colonel, Medical Corps Reserve.

Roque was a member, past secretary and past president of the Philippine Radiological Society.

Born in San Fernando, Pampanga, he was the son of the late **Petronilo** and **Teodora Tuazon Roque.**

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, **Bienvenida Fernandez Roque**; five children, **Marichelle Roque-Lutz**, **Rolando**, **Alma Roque-Borja**, **Olimpio Jr.** and **Leah Ortaleza**; in-laws, including **Rose Palarca** and **Gryk Ortaleza**; 13 grandchildren, **Pia**, **Pola**, **Maia**, **Nedda**, **Tarita**, **Iris**, **Guy**, **Jon**, **Ramoncito**, **Jessica**, **Honky**, **Bubu** and **Chyna**; and six great-grandchildren.

Relatives, friends and colleagues are invited to a Memorial Mass at Mt. Carmel Church, Broadway, tonight, May 21, at 6:45 PM.

RUFINA R. FLORCRUZ

of Malolos, Bulacan

TEACHER (Bulacan High School and MHPHS)
In a barrio and town of Bulacan from 1928 to 1974

Joined her Creator on May 19, 2002 at the age of 93.

Affectionately remembered by sister **Iluminada** & Exequiel S. Beltran (†); brothers **Cenon** & Lourdes Adriano, **Perico** & Juanita Begley, **Luis** (†) & Concepcion Crisostomo (†), **Arturo** (†) & Lilia Jarabelo, Gigi D' Oriano, Anna Hildebrand (†); nephews and nieces, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Her remains lie in state at the family residence at Guinhawa, Malolos, Bulacan,

Interment at Malolos Municipal Cemetery (Caniogan) on Thursday, May 23, 2002, after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at Barasoain Church.

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6350219, 6350220

We, the family of the late

CAPT SANTOS P PANCIPANE PN (GSC) Ret

who passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on 13 May 2002 at the age of 67

wish to express our profound gratitude to those who condoled with us in our time of bereavement.

REALESTATE

Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**

More buyers settle for smaller condos

By Tessa R. Salazar

PRACTICALITY is the name of the game.

Top real estate developers are now focusing on offering smaller units that have been found to meet greater acceptance over the larger, more luxurious residential condominiums.

These are mainly due to the cost and practicality of smaller condos. As such, the market for smaller condos will continue to thrive in view of the downward movement of interest rates. This was predicted by FPDSavills Philippines Research in its recent property update report.

Smaller units preferred

"Since prices per square meter for high-end residential condominiums offering large and small units are almost the same, buyers tend to settle for smaller units such as the studios and the 1- or 2-bedroom units," said the report.

It further stated that the "flight to quality" will remain the theme in 2002 as tenants and buyers prefer smaller, newer and more accessible residential condominiums. Older developments are expected to upgrade their facilities and refurbish their units.

Demand-driven market

"In the end," stressed FPDSavills, "buyers and tenants are expected to choose new (projects)." It was also pointed out that the market is no longer supply driven in nature but more of a demand-driven market ruled by highly discriminating consumers.

Ayala Land Inc. recently launched One Legazpi Park, a residential condominium in Makati close to Greenbelt and Glorietta and offering mostly smaller studios, one-bedroom to three-bedroom units.

The residential condo is a 45-story development of 370 units. Its typical studio unit measures 40 to 42 square meters while a typical one-bedroom unit measures 60 to 66 sq. m or 70 to 74 sq. m. A two-bedroom unit measures 95 to 97 sq. m while a three-bedroom unit measures 120 to 121 sq. m. A penthouse measures 148 sq. m or 202 sq. m.

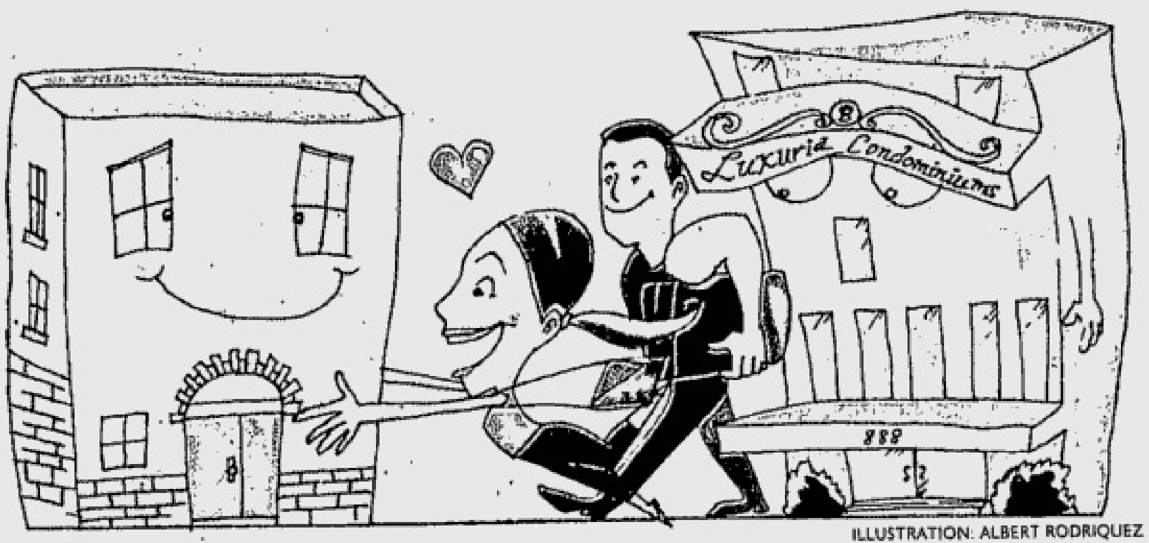

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIQUEZ

ALI, which targets urban dwellers, young executives and even students with its One Legazpi Park at the corner of Legazpi and Rada Streets, Makati, made this package attractive by dangling a P20,000 monthly amortization as well as affordable financial policies.

Rockwell Land Corp.'s Manasala, a twin-tower residential development with more than 600 units to be built this June, will consist mostly of smaller units that are trumpeted on the theme of affordability, said FPDSavills Research. Expected completion of construction is December 2005.

Megaworld Holdings Inc., with its Greenbelt Park Place due to start construction by the third quarter of 2002 and expected to be turned over by December 2005, is another example. With more than 300 units spread over 39 floors, Greenbelt Park Place is a combination of studio and one-bedroom units.

Rise in vacancy rates

The report also cited that demand is expected to be subdued in the high-end luxury development sector. This means vacancy rates in this sector are expected to rise to 30 percent in 2002 from 26 percent in 2001.

The property consultancy firm also stated that for the rest of the year, rents are expected to decrease by as much as 15 to 20 percent and will continue to do so until 2003. It further cited that two-bedroom rental rates in Makati in 2002 are estimated at P260 per sq. m per month. In Ortigas, it would be P210 per sq. m per month.

Meanwhile, three 18-story residential towers developments called Bay Gardens located on Roxas Boulevard's 40-hectare garden city, may have two-story penthouse units totaling 215 sq. m each, or a 168-sq.-m three-bedroom, three-bathroom executive deluxe suite, or a family suite ranging from 1,217 to 1,222 sq. m, but it has also recognized the demand for smaller units. Among its smaller units are one-bedroom, 52-sq.-m pads for young urban professionals or starting families.

Ayala Greenfield Estates opens clubhouse

COMPANY presidents and business executives with their families and friends got a taste of the best that nature and modern luxuries can offer, during the recently concluded inauguration of the first phase of the community clubhouse at Ayala Greenfield Estates in Calamba, Laguna. The Locsin-designed Nature Park Clubhouse is just one of the many construction milestones at Ayala Greenfield Estates, a subdivision being developed jointly by Ayala Land Inc. and Greenfield Development Corp.

UNLEASHING the butterflies are, from left, Ayala Land corporate secretary and treasurer Mercedita Nolledo, Greenfield Development Corp. directors Do Ejercito and Butch Campos and GM Ricky Jacinto, Ayala Land VP for sales and marketing services Marivic Añonuevo and Greenfield Development Corp. senior executive officer Jeffrey Campos with Leandro Locsin Jr. of Locsin V. Locsin & Partners unleash the butterflies. The affair capped the ceremonial inauguration of the clubhouse.

THE AYALA Greenfield Estates swimming pool with an infinity edge that gives a breathtaking view of Laguna.

An astounding display of beautiful butterflies was unleashed at the veranda that overlooks Laguna de Bay. This served as the culminating inaugural rite of the clubhouse.

Surrounded by natural open space and a dramatic ridge-top view, the guests learned the art of landscape design from the most-sought-after Shirley Sanders, and relaxed to the soothing music of a live acoustic quartet at the coffee shop. The younger set played hard and engaged in water games at the pool, while kids were treated to a fun bubble show.

A host of recreational opportunities were available to the weekend visitors: adult and kiddie swimming pools, skating rink, children's play area, fishing lagoon, billiard hall, card and video game room, among others.

What the developers are most proud of are the subdivision's "natural amenities": a 360° view of Laguna de Bay, Tagaytay ridge, Manila's skyline and Mt. Makiling; gently sloping terrains that embrace the natural curves of the hill; blue skies, lush greenery and fresh mountain breeze. Visitors almost always "fall in love at first sight" with the place.

Ayala Greenfield Estates is the perfect place to build your dream house, your weekend haven, or retirement home. This new exciting community is poised to become the ultimate luxury village and leisure destination south of Metro Manila.

Advocacy organization

By Florentino Dulalia Jr.
Contributor

THERE are a lot of times when people come to me to ask about the good that they can get out of joining the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders' Association (Creba). Some of them are construction suppliers and engineers who think that Creba's membership is limited to people who are directly involved in the real estate and construction industry.

We would like to take this opportunity to tell the public that Creba also welcomes allied professionals and service providers as members. Natural or juridical persons or entities engaged or involved, directly or indirectly, in the various development aspects of real estate, subdivision, housing and/or community development can join Creba. They can join Creba provided that they are duly registered and/or licensed under Philippine laws.

Members are classified into charter members or surviving incorporators; institutional members (business, trade and/or professional associations, and/or nonstock, nonprofit organizations); corporate members (partnerships, corporations and/or cooperatives); chapter members (local or regional aggregation of natural and/or juridical persons); and individual members (individual or single proprietorship). Also included are members who have rendered highly exceptional service in the furtherance of Creba's advocacy programs and initiatives and of the real estate and housing industry.

What do members get out of joining Creba?

A lot, I would say.

The association, for one thing, is an advocacy organization. One derives a sense of pride from knowing that Creba constantly works on advocacy programs that would hasten growth and stabilize the country's economy. Members are made aware of the fact that ownership, development, construction, conservation, management and disposition of real estate and buildings and all activities of allied industries are "clothed with public interest." This is why in all relations with the public, Crebans should "temper self- interest with general welfare."

In addition, every member of good standing enjoys certain rights and privileges that enhance one's profession and enterprise. There are programs for mutual assistance and patronage, as well as forums for addressing valid grievances and espousal of worthy causes. Needless to say, at Creba, one surely wins new friends, business acquaintances and strategic partners. One also enjoys fellowship functions, sports, socials and great fun.

Speaking of fellowship and great fun, Creba will take time off advocacy work and business on May 25 for a summer family festival at scenic and wondrous Tagaytay Highlands. It is going to be family day for all of us. The office of the VP-Internal Affairs has been moving heaven and earth so to speak to see to it that nobody misses this exciting event. Tagaytay Highlands is a perfect place to enjoy with one's family and fellow Crebans. For registration, please call up the Creba secretariat and be counted.

(Dulalia is the national president of Creba.)

Pareb holds seminar on memorial park business

THE PHILIPPINE Association of Realtors Boards Inc. (Pareb), the premier realty service organization in the Philippines with over 1,500 members, will be holding a seminar on "Memorial park, a profitable real estate venture" on May 30, from 1 to 6 p.m. at the Ilang Ilang Room, Club Filipino, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila.

Noted speakers from the memorial park industry and the government have been invited to discuss and share their knowledge on such topics as Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board guidelines and project documentation; memorial park development and marketing; and financial aspects of the memorial park business

Realtor Luis Melchor V. Serquina, Pareb president, said that even with the weak real estate industry that is besetting the country, there are still opportunities in the real estate market, one of which is the area of memorial parks.

The seminar will greatly benefit landowners, real estate developers who would wish to engage in the memorial park business, banks and financing institutions, as well as real estate brokers and other real estate practitioners and even those who simply want to learn about memorial parks. Furthermore, real estate practitioners will earn CEP credits for attending the seminar, which is a requirement for renewal of their licenses.

For more information about the seminar, call up the Pareb secretariat at 723-4685, 723-1197 or 426-5385.

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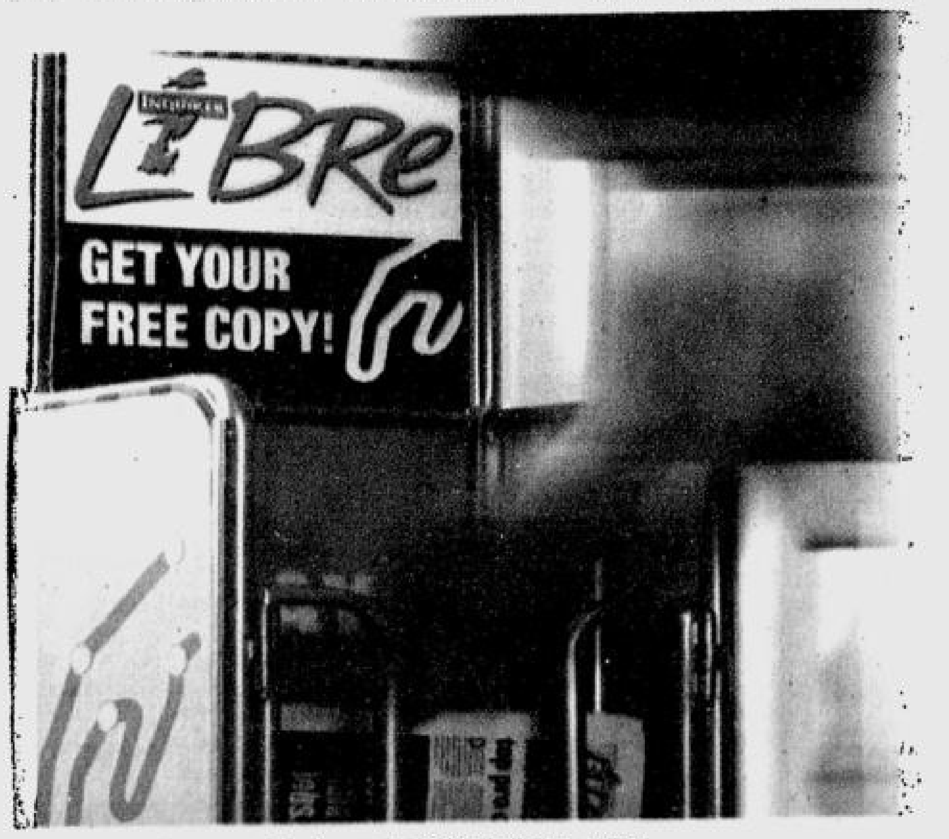

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The best things in life are Libre

Turalbas get UAP Design Award of Excellence in Architecture

THE UAP 2002 Design Award of Excellence in Architecture was presented to architects Antonio and Maria Cristina Valera-Turalba of the Active Group by UAP national president Prosperidad C. Luis and Dutch Boy Philippines Inc. president and COO Alfredo C. Tabita in ceremonies held recently at the Manila Midtown Hotel during 28th UAP national convention.

THE UAP 2002 Design Award of Excellence in Architecture was awarded to the Active Group's Antonio and Christina (inset) Turalba for their design on Mount Malarayat Golf and Country Club as an integrated leisure, recreation and residential development.

The Design Award of Excellence in Architecture was bestowed upon the Turalbas for their exemplary design of Mount Malarayat Golf & Country Club in Lipa City, Batangas. For an originally conceived upscale residential project, Club Malarayat was finalized by the husband and wife architects to an "integrated leisure, recreation and residential development" that is compatible to the site, sensitive to environmental issues and reflective of the Filipino culture.

This is the second time the Turalbas received the UAP Design Award for Excellence in Architecture. The first was in 1995 for the design of the Avignon Tower, a multi-story residential condominium in Salcedo Village, Makati City.

This year's UAP committee on awards was chaired by Celia C. Dizon, FUAP, and co-chaired by Ana Mangalino-Ling, UAP past presidents Froilan L. Hong, FUAP, and Richeto C. Alcordo, 1996 DAEA Awardee Yolanda David-Reyes, FUAP, and Dr. Jaime C. Laya, former chair of the National Commission for Culture and Arts.

Condo management seminar set May 29-30

A TWO-DAY comprehensive professional development seminar on "Condominium Management" is slated for May 29 and 30 at 6-9 p.m. at the Asian Institute of Management, AIM Conference Center (third floor), Jesus V. del Rosario Foundation Building, Benavidez corner Trasierra Streets, Legaspi Village, Makati City.

The seminar will be presented by the Philippine Association of Building Administrators Inc. (Paba), jointly with the Condominium Management Association of the Philippines Inc., in cooperation with the Philippine Institute of Building Management Foundation Inc.

Paba and CMAP president Val S. Abeng said that with the development of commercial and residential condominiums in the country, there is a need for individuals who are qualified and experienced in the operations, maintenance, administration and management of commercial buildings, industrial, institutional, educational, recreational, residential condominium and housing townhouse subdivisions.

Interested parties may call up the PIBMFI secretariat at 819-2656 and 892-6937 or fax at 893-0155 for inquiries.

Aussie technology taps rainwater for home use

By Charles E. Buban

A FEW sprinkles of rain in the recent days make us look forward to the wet season. But while this event is delightful news for farmers and plantation owners, those living in the city however, would find it a bit depressing.

The sight of flooding and those volumes of rainwater gone needlessly to sewers would always make us think of how to put some of this rainwater to good use. One Australian technology could show us how and we're not talking here of storage drums.

Ingenious design

An Australian architect based in Sydney developed and patented an ingenious design, called Rainsaver, that allows large volumes of normally wasted rainwater to be stored in home and building gutter systems. The system invented by Frank Smith, replaces the usual gutter with a high-capacity one around the eaves and fascia of a house so that water can be stored on site rather than just running through pipes and on an underground pipe system to the nearest drainage.

According to Smith, rainwater management is an increasingly important issue in many cities as new, larger houses and apartment blocks replace original housing. Rainwater is usually piped from roof to street, reaching curbs and gutters within seconds and often flooding city streets during rains.

With Rainsaver, the rainwater travels through the device and is directed to water closets, hoses (as a nonpotable source of water) or overflows when it reaches maximum capacity. During extreme rainfall, excess water is gently discharged from strategically placed overflow holes and infiltrates to the water table as nature intended.

Easy installation

The system can be easily installed on most new or existing buildings and offers an excellent alternative to conventional rainwater storage systems. The designed is simple and will look similar to current fascia and gutter profiles.

A RAINSAVER system will look like just about any gutter but a closer inspection will reveal its innovative features for storing rainwater.

The Rainsaver device is made up of a trough, lid and leaf guard. The system is manufactured from BHP Colorbond steel 0.55-mm thick, with prepainted finish applied to the exterior surface and a food-grade plastic lining laminated to the inside surface, which means it can be used to collect drinking water when it's safe to collect rainwater.

Mosquito will have a hard time breeding on the system, thanks to a leaf guard with supply holes screened with fly wire and overflow holes too small for the insect to penetrate. But according to the inventor, even if they do get in, the constant flow of the water that goes to the toilet and hoses will prevent the mosquitoes from laying their egg inside the system.

The effectivity of Rainsaver has been tested in various Australian cities. The Rainsaver is being patented in 61 countries including the United States. The tests include analysis of rainfall in many areas to predict the performance of the device, in particular, the savings, the water usage and overflow analysis.

Ample water supply

When fitted to an average house, say 180 sq. m, the Rainsaver system stores approximately 1,500 liters of rainwater and supplies gravity-fed roof water to the toilet and external garden taps.

A connection to the main water supply allows Rainsaver to automatically top up the system during dry months, ensuring a continuous supply of water.

According to Smith, by using the system to supply toilets and external water sources, a community's demand for water may be slashed by up to 30 percent. The standard Rainsaver design can hold 25 liters per meter and can supply an average house with 70,000 liters of savings a year.

This patent-protected technology has been developed fully in-house by Rainsaver Pty Limited and has been independently assessed and approved as scientifically, environmentally and commercially sound by Australia's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization and the University of South Australia.

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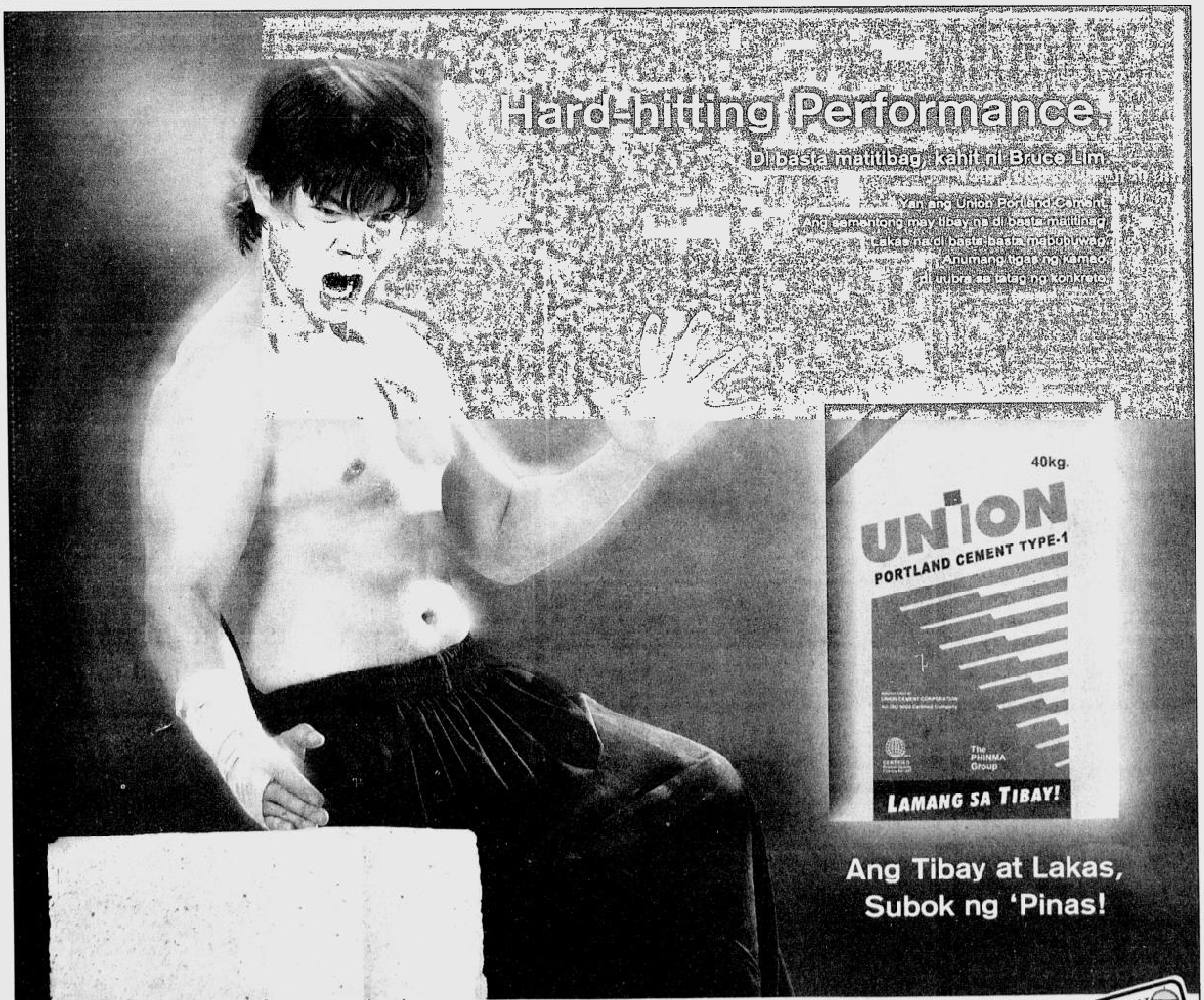
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BUY PINOY

Banks' profitability improves by 22% after 3-year decline

LOCAL banks' profits improved by 21.9 percent from a year earlier in 2001, reversing a three-year decline, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said yesterday.

The banks' net profit after tax rose to P14 billion, the BSP said in a statement.

This was considerably higher than the net earnings achieved in the past two years and ended the downward trend in net earnings over the past three years, it said.

"However, 79.1 percent of the net profits was from 'one-off' events and due primarily to the profits from the sale of acquired assets," the statement said.

Operating profits stood at P142.4 billion, consisting mainly of net interest income.

The growth in operating profits was attributed mainly to the 17-percent increase in non-interest earnings consisting largely of fee-based income.

"The persistent rise in non-performing assets (NPAs) remained a major concern in the industry as this continued to weaken asset quality. The upsurge in NPAs effectively limited the scope for more active lending and general asset expansion," it said.

The banks had combined non-performing assets worth P497.2 billion, or 14.6 percent of the total, compared with 12.7 percent at the end of 2001.

Total assets rose only 0.8 percent to P3.3 trillion as the bigger lenders trimmed banking operations amid an economic slowdown. Lending rose only by 0.4 percent, with the portfolios of government banks dropped by 9.9 percent.

The banking system continued its consolidation since the mid-1997 Asian crisis, with emphasis on the strengthening of the balance sheet structure, it said.

Mergers and closures reduced the number of lenders by 18 to 929 banks.

The capital adequacy ratio of the country's 44 commercial banks stood at 13.2 percent, it said. *AFP*

Treasury to offer additional debt papers

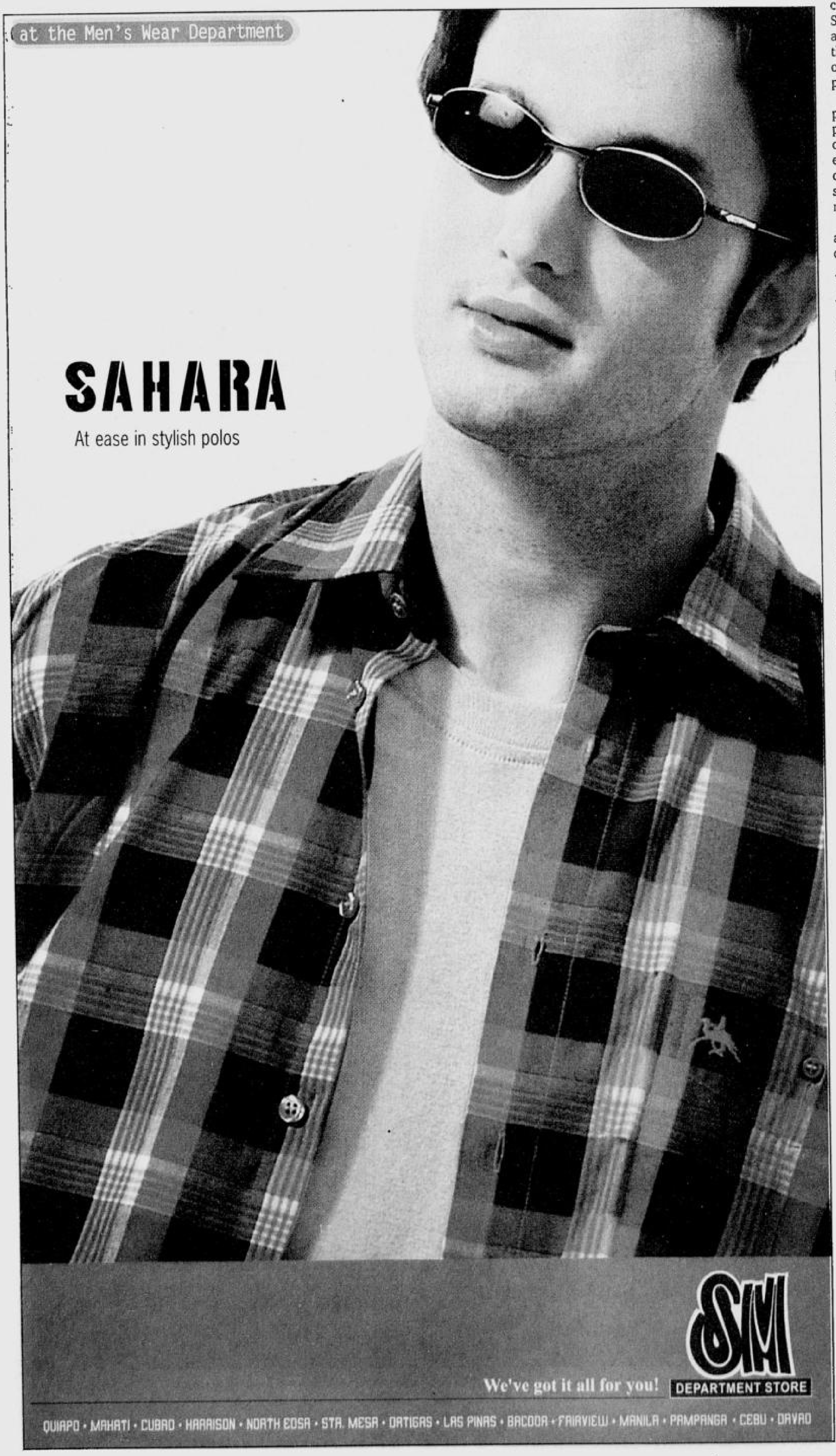
THE BUREAU of Treasury said it planned to offer additional debt papers to the domestic market at its auctions in the third quarter.

In a circular to securities traders, the Treasury said it would increase its offer of one-year T-bills in the quarter to P3 billion per auction from the previous P2.5 billion.

As a consequence, its offer size for T-bills will increase to P9.5 billion per fortnightly auction from the current P9 billion.

The Treasury also said it would offer P15 billion worth of T-bonds in August against P12 billion to be sold in July and September.

Five-year bonds will be reintroduced after this tenor and others of a longer maturity were suspended in the second quarter because of concerns over high yields. *Reuters*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PRESIDENT Macapagal and Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority Chair Felicito C. Payumo offer the traditional toast to Japanese investors during the inauguration of the $100-million electronic manufacturing plant of computer parts makers, Sankyo Seiki.

Japanese firm opens $100-M Subic plant

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—President Macapagal-Arroyo on Friday pushed the ceremonial electronic button signaling the start of operations of the $100-million manufacturing plant here of Japanese computer parts maker, Sankyo Seiki Manufacturing Limited.

Ms Macapagal lauded the company's "vote of confidence" in Subic and in the country through a project that would generate for the country yearly export receipts of about $300 million and employment for 8,000 people.

Sankyo Seiki, one of the biggest publicly listed corporations in Japan, is engaged in the production of high-speed precision electronic equipment, micro-motors for computer peripherals and other specialized digital core parts for multimedia.

"This highly technical project is an eloquent gesture of your confidence in the economic, social and political stability of our country," Ms Macapagal said in her message.

In a press conference, Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) Chair Felicito C. Payumo said the President expressed satisfaction over the development programs of SBMA that were aimed at attracting more foreign investments.

Payumo cited the importance of Sankyo Seiki's debut in the Philippines particularly in terms of technology transfer, export generation and job creation.

The newly opened plant will be one of Sankyo Seiki's production centers in Asia. The company also plans to set up a software engineering center to support its facilities here.

Sankyo Seiki (Phils.) Mfg. Corp. president Takashi Maruyama said that Subic Bay Freeport was the company's top choice for its new plant.

Lopez company to issue $150-M bonds in July

By Doris C. Dumlao

LOPEZ-controlled First Philippine Holdings Corp. plans to issue $150 million in foreign bonds in July this year in order to refinance debts and infuse fresh capital into the North Luzon expressway project.

In a briefing after the company's stockholders' meeting yesterday, FPH chief operating officer Elpidio Ibañez said the company had appointed US investment bank JP Morgan to handle the flotation. The bonds will either be convertible to shares of FPH or exchangeable into shares of its unlisted subsidiary First Generation Holdings Inc.

He said that part of the proceeds would be used to refinance $87 million in redemption obligations falling due this August while $42 million would be earmarked for the additional capital requirements of the Manila North Tollways Corp.

The infusion of $42 million in capital into the toll projects was a precondition to a $261-million funding facility signed in July last year with seven international banks and five multilateral financial institutions led by the Asian Development Bank. MNTC needs to come up with the additional capital before it can draw down from the facility.

The $42 million cash infusion will increase the Lopez group's stake in the $500 million North Luzon expressway project to 87 percent from the existing 60 percent. He said FPH would also end up with a 60-percent stake in the Philippine Infrastructure Development Corp. (FPIDC).

FPDIC, the Lopezes' infrastructure arm which is a 70-30 percent joint venture between Benpres and FPH, controls 60 percent of MNTC.

The other minority shareholders of MNTC—Egis Projects SA and Philippine National Construction Corp. hold a 20 percent interest each.

Ibañez said FPH would cover the subscription rights of both Benpres and PNCC while Egis was expected to put up $14.4 million or 10 percent of the required amount.

FPH would also reduce its stake by offering 10 percent of its expanded stake in MNTC to a new investor.

For the full year, he said FPH was expecting to generate a net income of P2.3 billion from P2.1 billion in 2001. He said the projected growth was only at 10 percent due to lower earnings from Meralco and higher interest expenses.

Gov't posts ₱10B in savings due to lower interest rates

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE GOVERNMENT saved more than P10 billion from debt servicing on account of lower interest rates, particularly on the 91-day treasury bill, in the first months of the year.

A finance official said that savings owing to the declining interest charges on government borrowings have grown steadily from January to April. However, he said the savings were offset by the lower collection of interest-linked taxes during the period.

In the first quarter, the government's savings from debt servicing were placed at P9.498 billion. The amount further increased when in late April, the 91-day treasury bill yield dropped to historic low of 4.299 percent. The rate increased on May 13 to 4.381 percent.

"The impact of the declining interest rates is two-edged. While you pay lower interest rates, you also realize lower collection from interest-related taxes," said a finance official. The latter consisted of taxes on bank deposits' interest earnings, the 20-percent withholding tax on treasury bills and taxes on gross receipts.

The government posted a collection shortfall of P3.5 billion (against the targets) in the three tax categories during the first four months of the year. This year, the Bureau of Internal Revenue must generate some P13 billion from the interest earnings on deposits, P19.8 billion from the withholding tax on treasury bills, and P11 billion from gross tax receipts.

The first quarter savings from debt servicing were used to partly pay maturing government obligations. Still, the first quarter deficit exceeded the P52.933 billion target by P8.275 billion.

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What is fact and what is fiction about fat

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Juan

ONE of the reasons that people fall for weight loss gimmicks is that they have many misconceptions about fat. You would think that with all the health and fitness information available over the Internet, TV, newspapers and magazines, people would know better. But I have met highly intelligent professionals like lawyers and engineers who have fallen for weight loss scams because they lack the basic knowledge about human physiology. So here's what is fact and what is fiction about fat.

You only burn fat after 20 minutes of exercise

The body is constantly burning a combination of fat and carbohydrates. In fact, even as you are reading this article, you are burning both types of fuel. For every calorie you burn at rest, approximately 50 percent of that calorie comes from fat and the other 50 percent from carbohydrates. We are continually burning both nutrients throughout the day but at different percentages depending on the intensity of our activity.

Low intensity exercise burns more fat than high intensity exercise

A greater percentage of fat is burned at lower exercise intensities while a greater percentage of carbohydrates is burned at higher exercise intensities. However, since more total calories are burned at higher exercise intensities, a greater amount of fat is actually burned. The confusion lies in the words "percentage" and "total absolute amounts."

A good way to explain it would be this way. Who is richer? The man who owns 100 percent of a *sari-sari* store or the man who owns 1 percent of Microsoft? Assuming you are exercising for the same amount of time, you will burn a greater amount of fat at a higher exercise intensity because you are burning a greater number of total calories compared to exercising at a lower intensity. Studies have also shown that more fat is burned after a vigorous intense exercise than after a low intensity exercise. This is called the Epoc or "excess post-exercise oxygen consumption."

Correct breathing techniques are all you need to burn fat

Your body needs the oxygen in the air you breathe to burn fat and carbohydrates for fuel. It will only use up as much oxygen as it needs depending on how long and hard you make

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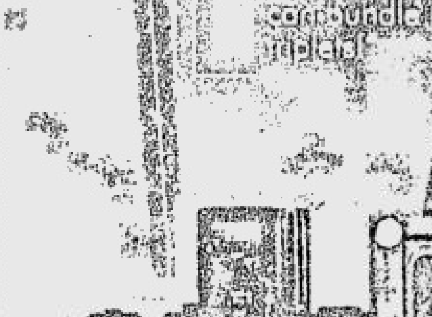
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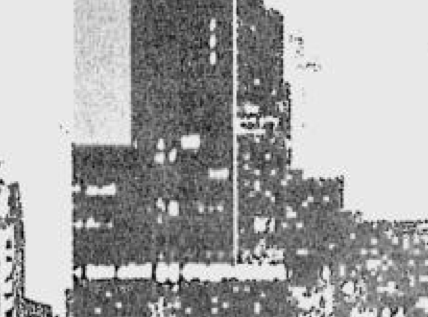
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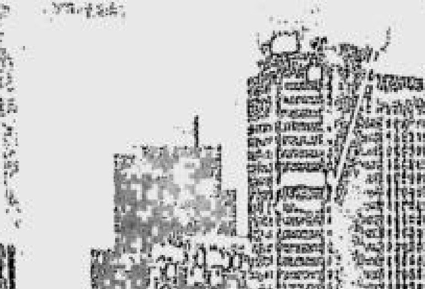
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What is fact and what is fiction about fat

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Juan

ONE of the reasons that people fall for weight loss gimmicks is that they have many misconceptions about fat. You would think that with all the health and fitness information available over the Internet, TV, newspapers and magazines, people would know better. But I have met highly intelligent professionals like lawyers and engineers who have fallen for weight loss scams because they lack the basic knowledge about human physiology. So here's what is fact and what is fiction about fat.

You only burn fat after 20 minutes of exercise

The body is constantly burning a combination of fat and carbohydrates. In fact, even as you are reading this article, you are burning both types of fuel. For every calorie you burn at rest, approximately 50 percent of that calorie comes from fat and the other 50 percent from carbohydrates. We are continually burning both nutrients throughout the day but at different percentages depending on the intensity of our activity.

Low intensity exercise burns more fat than high intensity exercise

A greater percentage of fat is burned at lower exercise intensities while a greater percentage of carbohydrates is burned at higher exercise intensities. However, since more total calories are burned at higher exercise intensities, a greater amount of fat is actually burned. The confusion lies in the words "percentage" and "total absolute amounts."

A good way to explain it would be this way. Who is richer? The man who owns 100 percent of a *sari-sari* store or the man who owns 1 percent of Microsoft? Assuming you are exercising for the same amount of time, you will burn a greater amount of fat at a higher exercise intensity because you are burning a greater number of total calories compared to exercising at a lower intensity. Studies have also shown that more fat is burned after a vigorous intense exercise than after a low intensity exercise. This is called the Epoc or "excess post-exercise oxygen consumption."

Correct breathing techniques are all you need to burn fat

Your body needs the oxygen in the air you breathe to burn fat and carbohydrates for fuel. It will only use up as much oxygen as it needs depending on how long and hard you make

WHAT/ p.C2

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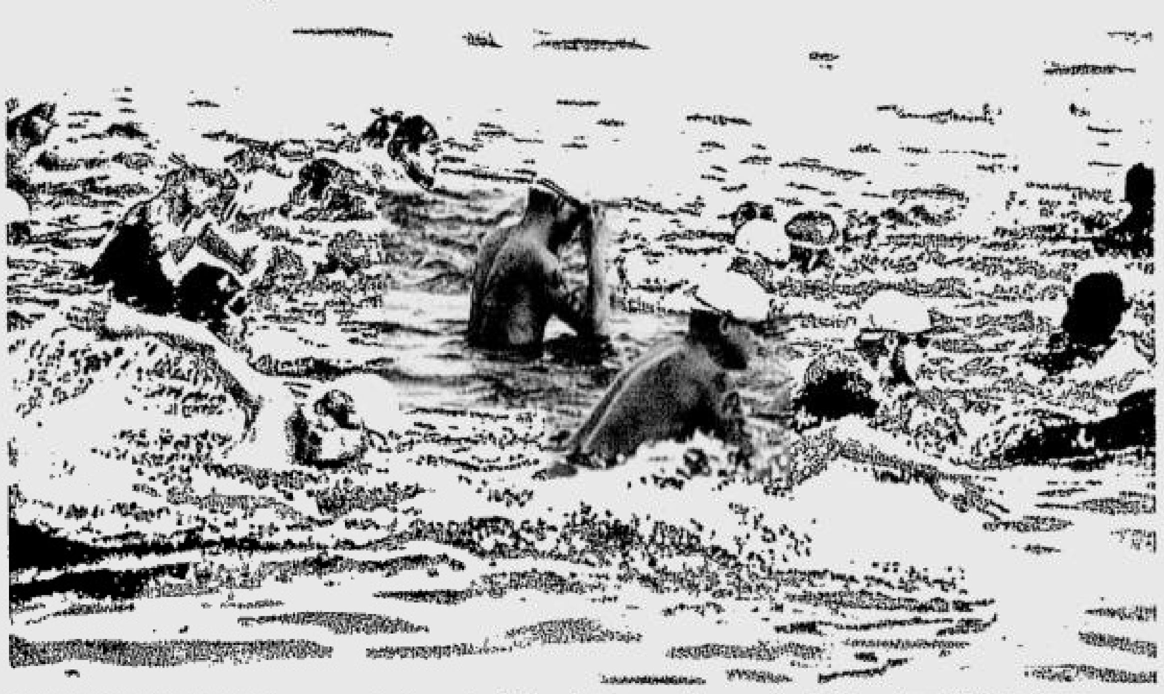
When the finish line is a skip and a hop plus a swim and a bike away

By Anne A. Jambora
Photos By Roger Margallo



CARPE DIEM! At 6:30 a.m., as first part of the challenge, they swim 1.5 km, two 750-m loops.

WüNDERKD. Dumaguit doing what he loves best—cycling.

FOR SOME athletes, it's a battle of the mind—the mental tenacity to urge the body to push on and on despite the obstacles. For others, it's a physical ordeal—the strength to persevere under strenuous conditions. But heck, for most triathletes it's for the sheer fun of it. Never mind if "fun" means swimming nonstop for 1.5 km, then hopping on to a bike and racing 40 km through slopes and rough roads, and finally running another 10 km through, yes, the rocky, rugged terrain of a steep mountain.

Everybody wins in a triathlon. After surviving the race, a personal sense of triumph overwhelms more than an adrenaline rush. Months of preparation and hours of rigorous daily training are well worth that moment when you raise your arms in the air upon crossing the finish line.

The recent Speedo/TLP International Triathlon Challenge 2K2 gave the more agile of the species an adventure they could not refuse.

Unlike other triathlons in the country, the Speedo/TLP challenge in Anilao, Mabini, Batangas, has a "natural" craggy course—due to sporadic undeveloped roads—demanding athletes to draw energy from raw strength. That's the reason participation continues to grow year after year, luring triathletes like flies to a fire. "You have to constantly challenge yourself," said Thelma Heidel of the UPLB Trantados team.

WITH OR WITHOUT SHOES. Women's champ and Ateneo track team assistant coach Anna Marissa Nagtalon

MEN'S champ Pfc. George Vilog runs 30-50 km, swims 12 km and rides the bike 200 km every week as part of his training.

Serendipity

Serendipity, mused Tanghalang Lakbay Pilipino (TLP) managing partner and event organizer Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel, gave birth to the triathlon challenge three years ago. Her family often hies off to Anilao to scubadive, and one day she saw two people on a mountain bike. In a burst of inspiration, she thought of putting up a triathlon. What started with less than 100 participants in 2000 has grown to more than 200 this year.

Supported for the first time by the Philippine Sports Commission, the triathlon in Anilao will become bigger with recognition from the Asian Cup Series. "They recognize only one event per country, and that recognition has already been given to the Subic triathlon. But ACS is making an exception with the Philippines, so next year it's going to be both Anilao and Subic. That's good news to these athletes as they will be able to earn points every time they participate here," Hontiveros-Baraquel said.

A diverse set of triathletes came—from students, businessmen and military personnel to hardcore athletes and, well, one who once joined the Binibining Pilipinas pageant. But the instant crowd favorite and scene-stealer was 8-year-old Tonton Dumaguit, the youngest in the challenge.

Dumaguit said he has been joining triathlons "*kasi po masaya*." His swimmer dad first trained him, but naturally, in swimming when he was 4. A year later, he savored his first taste of competition—and wanted more. The young lad quickly learned the ropes, and in this triathlon beat his dad in the swimming division. Not bad for someone who wants to be an Olympian someday.

SHOWER TIME. Women's second placer and one-time Binibining Pilipinas contestant Lakambini Teodoro Alto freshens up after the race.

Walk in the park

Pfc. George Vilog, the men's overall winner in the solo category, said he was lucky to have a supportive family.

His friend, Pfc. Reynaldo de los Reyes, whose Team Army grabbed the first place in the relay category, talked about running from Taguig to the Rizal Coliseum like it was a walk in the park. He has been a marathoner for several years, and he covers 102-250 km running per week as part of his training.

Anna Marissa Magtalon faced a gruesome predicament in the middle of the running race. The body of hershoe was ripped from the sole atthe ball of her feet and sneaked its way toward the heel. To top it, she had to deal with topography—grit, stones and all. But emerging overall winner in the women's solo category for the first time made the occasion doubly euphoric. "On my first triathlon here, my bike had a flat tire. Last year, my bike again had a problem. This year, my shoes!"

The second placer in the women's solo category, Lakambini Teodoro Alto, was a semifinalist in this year's Binibining Pilipinas pageant. "I had to learn in a month how to walk with 4-inch heels because I'm used to wearing rubber shoes and sandals," she said. For people who think triathlon is a rich man's sport, Alto said, "*Wala sa bike 'yan, nasa tuhod.*"

First placers in the solo category won roundtrip tickets to Szechuan, China, to join a triathlon challenge, plus $200 pocket money. The rest received complimentary T-shirts proudly proclaiming them triathlon finisher. Indeed, it wasn't about winning; it was about having conquered herculean tasks.

E-mail the author at splat_blag @excite.com

RUN, FORREST, RUN! Notice how grown men tail behind Dumaguit.

What is fact and what is fiction about fat

From page C1

your muscles work. You can sit in a chair and deep breathe all you want but the body will only take what it needs. If it were true that we only need to increase the amount of oxygen in the air we breathe to lose weight, then there would be no more obese people in the world because they would simply attach themselves to an oxygen tank.

You can eat as much as you want and not gain weight as long as the food you eat is low in fat

All excess calories, whether they come from fat, carbohydrates or protein, will be converted to fat. Nonfat or low-fat food does not mean zero calories.

You can eat as much as you want and not gain weight as long as you exercise

Long and intense workouts do not guarantee that you can eat whatever you want and not gain weight. If the amount of calories you eat is greater than the amount of calories you burn, you can still gain weight.

If you stop exercising, your muscles will turn to fat

Fat cells cannot turn into muscle cells in the same way that your bone cells cannot turn into blood cells. Muscle cells can enlarge or shrink the way fat cells can. Muscles become heavier and denser with exercise while fat cells shrink if you burn enough calories. When you stop exercising and eat an excess of calories, the process will revert itself—muscles will atrophy and fat cells will enlarge. To the naked eye, it might seem as if the muscle has turned to fat.

You can't get rid of fat cells. They are with you forever

Yes, fat cells are with you forever. They don't disappear when you lose weight; they only shrink. When you gain weight, they enlarge. They can only be removed permanently through surgical procedures like liposuction. However, if you gain weight, the other fat cells in other parts of your body will enlarge with excess fat. You cannot fool the body; it has to store additional calories somewhere.

You should lose weight first before exercising or your fat will become hard

Fat cells cannot "harden" in response to exercise. They will get smaller since they are a source of energy for calories that are burned through exercise. Muscle cells, on the other hand, can get harder in response to exercise, especially weight training type of exercises. Exercise and eating right go hand in hand to help you lose weight.

Don't drink cold water because it will make you fat

Water, whether it is hot or cold, has no calories so it can't make you fat. However, if you drink a large amount of water in one sitting as some people do when they are very thirsty, your stomach will be temporarily distended. This might make you think the drinking cold water makes you fat.

A fat child will become a fat adult

A fat child will not necessarily turn into a fat adult but the chances are high that it will happen. Studies indicate that if one parent is overweight, a child has a 40 percent chance of becoming overweight. If both parents are overweight, then the percentage rises to 70 percent. In comparison, a child with normal weight parents only has a 7 percent chance of becoming obese. Researchers still don't know whether this is due to heredity or the family's bad eating and exercise habits or a combination of both.

The more you sweat, the more fat you lose

Not necessarily. If you sweat because you are exercising in extreme heat or humidity or because you are wearing "rubberized" clothing, the weight lost is only water and not fat. When you eat and drink, those lost pounds return almost as fast as they left. Since you have to burn 3,500 calories to lose 1 pound of fat, do not be fooled into thinking that the 3 pounds you have lost by staying 20 minutes in a steam room is composed of fat. Don't be fooled either into thinking that if you are not actively sweating while you are exercising, very few calories are being burned. Running on a treadmill in an air-conditioned gym will probably produce less visible sweat than taking a five-minute leisurely walk outside in the heat of the noonday sun and yet, will burn many more calories.

It is easier to lose fat from the abdomen than from the hips and thighs

Research shows that it is easier to lose fat from the abdomen than from the hips, thighs and buttocks area. Scientists think that this may be because the reproductive hormones in a woman's body regulate the fat that is stored in the hip and thighs area. While pear-shaped individuals may be very frustrated with their "saddlebags," at least this type of fat distribution pattern is not related to health problems. Apple-shaped people, meanwhile, have an easier time losing their abdominal fat but are at risk for high blood pressure, diabetes, and hyperlipidemia (elevated levels of fat in the blood).

Doing 1,000 abdominal crunches a day will make you lose fat in the abdomen

Current research indicates that you cannot "spot-reduce" fat from specific areas of the body. Tests done on tennis players show that their dominant arm (the arm they use to swing the racket) is bigger, has more muscle mass but has the same fat percentage as their inactive arm. Exercise stimulates fat reduction throughout the entire body, not in localized areas. If you could choose the exact areas where you wanted to burn fat by doing specific exercises, then obese people who chew gum the whole day would have bony cheeks. "Spot exercises" are good for making specific muscles firmer and tighter.

Fit people burn more fat than sedentary people

Your body adapts to aerobic training by increasing your stamina, the capacity of your lungs to take in more oxygen and the efficiency of your muscles to use that oxygen to burn more fat. Studies indicate that, even at rest, a fit individual will burn more calories from fat than a sedentary individual.

Cellulite is a special kind of fat

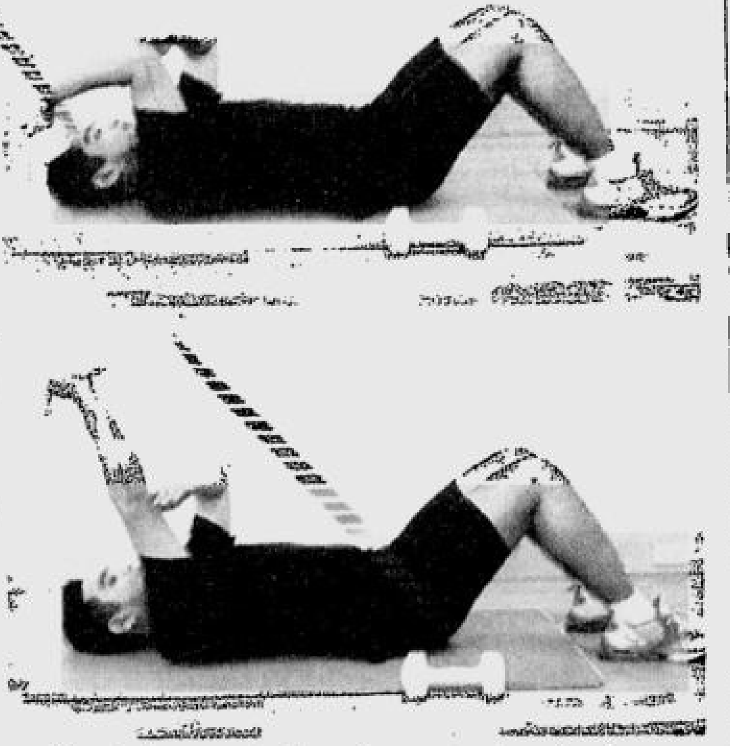
Biopsies reveal that there are no differences between fat cells taken from a person with cellulite and a person without it. A Columbia University study shows that there isn't even a difference between the fat cells taken from the cellulite-ridden area of a woman's thigh and the fat cells taken from the non-cellulite area of the same thigh. It seems that cellulite is ordinary fat trapped within fibrous connective tissue and under thin skin. No wonder that even thin, athletic women can have cellulite while there are overweight women who do not.

The American Council on Exercise (ACE) Exam will be held on July 27 and Nov. 9. To prepare, participants are encouraged to join the Basic Instructor Course and/or ACE Review Course by the Association of Fitness Professionals of the Philippines. Classes start on May 31. Call Doris at 850-7647.

Watch "In Fitness & In Health" on Studio 23, Mondays to Fridays, 6-6:30 am.

For past articles or exercises, visit www. tinajuanfitness.com

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK



Supine triceps extension

FIRMS muscles in the back of the arms (triceps).

Equipment:
Dumbbells and an exercise mat.

Exercise technique:
Lie on your back, with knees bent and feet on the floor. Hold one dumbbell on the right hand. Bring it straight on top of you, bend the elbow and hold the right arm (on the triceps) with the left hand to keep the shoulder steady. The elbow of the working arm should be facing the ceiling. Starting and ending position should be with the elbow bent. Concentrate on squeezing the triceps muscle as you straighten the elbow. Slowly bend the elbow.

Performance tips:
Keep the elbow facing the ceiling.

Think of your triceps as a sponge; squeeze the water out of that muscle with each contraction.

Straighten the elbow to fully contract the triceps, but watch out for locking or jerking the elbow joint.

If your shoulder or elbow joints hurt while doing this exercise, stop.

Repetitions:
Do 12-15 repetitions per arm. Rest. Do another one or two sets.

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ONE AND ONLY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

St. Luke's Medical Center inaugurated the Positron Emission Center (PET), as part of its mission to bring to the Philippines the most advanced medical technology available. The PET is a clinically proven cost-effective and safe non-invasive imaging technique that shows metabolism or function of the different organs and tissues of the body. In photo are Quezon City Mayor Sonny Belmonte (second from left), Justice Consuelo Santiago (in white), SLMC chair Robert Kwan, Center director Dr. Jonas Santiago, SLMC president Joe Ledesma and Bishop Manuel Lumbias.

A soulful evening of yoga and music

GET the chance to hear musicians Cynthia Alexander, Karl Roy, Zoraya and friends perform ancient mantras in an enchanting live concert. Treat yourself to the skillfully mastered dance sequences of Team Yoga.

All these and more as the Yoga Foundation of the Philippines (Yogafound), headed by director Antonio Arando, fuses the 5,000-year-old art of yoga and soulful music of current hit makers in one night of extravagant partying in celebration of its annual foundation day on May 23, 7 p.m.

The Yoga Discovery video and a photo exhibit of famous guest photographers will also be launched. Vegetarian cuisine and drinks will be served to everyone who will join the fun at the Jagad Yoga Shala, located at the rooftop of 1026 Pasay Road, Makati City.

Yogafound is a nonprofit organization created in 2000. It aims to impart the rich cultures of India and the East, their spiritual traditions, philosophies and arts, primarily yoga, to the Filipino people.

Yogafound was able to bring to the country last year Jivamutki founders Shannon Gannon and David Life who were the yoga instructors of famous celebrities such as Madonna, Sarah Jessica Parker and Sting. Yoga teacher and movement consultant for theater and film Gavin Robins also stayed for a month to teach yoga at the Shala and in Boracay.

Call Antonio Arando at (0917) 252-8786, Sandy Arando at (0917) 954-8639; or Robert Dario at (0917) 611-9493, or visit www.yogafound.com.

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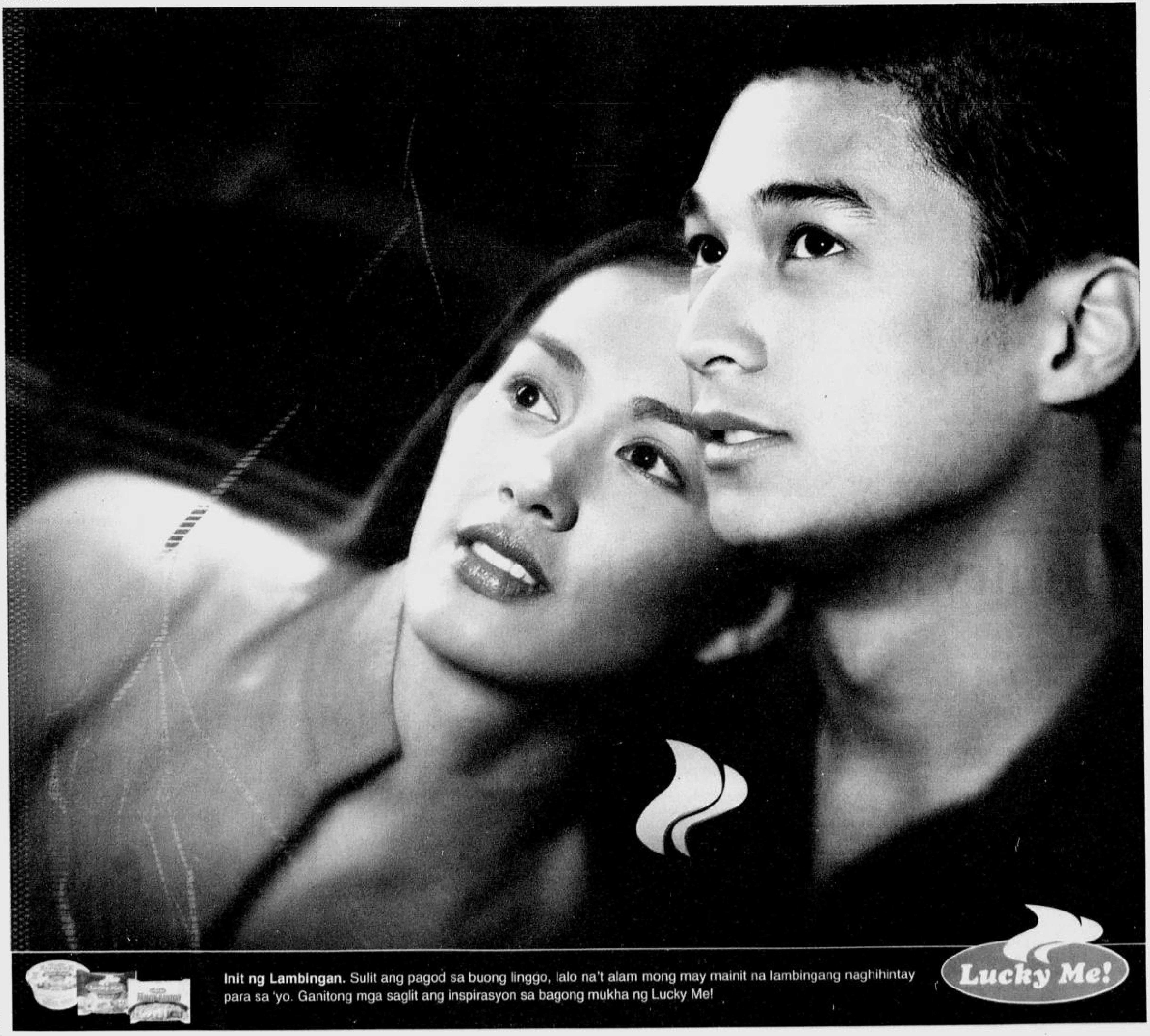
Init ng Lambingan. Sulit ang pagod sa buong linggo, lalo na't alam mong may mainit na lambingang naghihintay para sa 'yo. Ganitong mga saglit ang inspirasyon sa bagong mukha ng Lucky Me!

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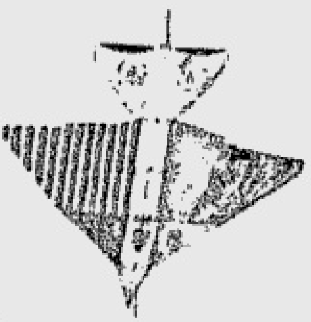
It's a bird! It's a plane! It's a kite!

This rite of summer promotes sportsmanship and family togetherness



By Constantino C. Tejero
Photos by Erik Arazas

"MANILA, welcome to Kitefest 2002!" cried the emcee at the Luneta that hot windy Sunday morning of the final leg of the 12th Bear Brand Kitefest. "*Ito'y nagpapatunay na buhay ang saranggolahan sa* Maynila!"

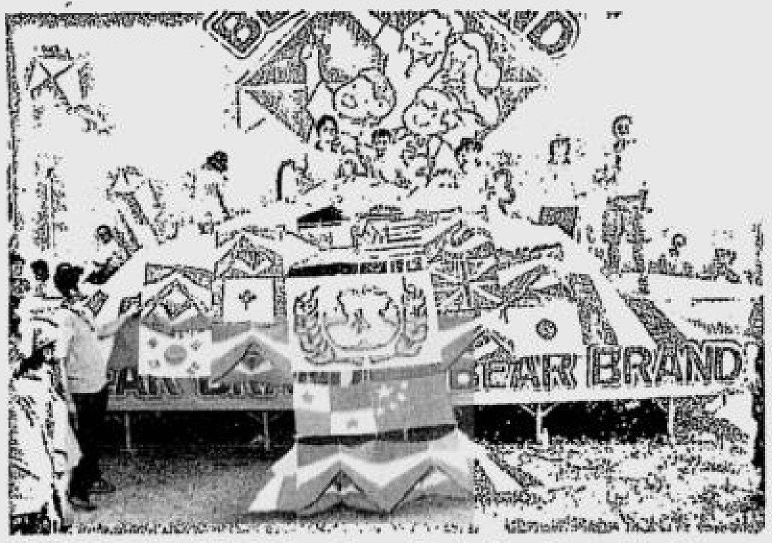
Kite-flying is a rite of summer in the Philippines, but it took a foreign corporation to institutionalize it into what has become the country's largest and longest-running kite-flying event. In 12 years, Nestlé has launched nearly 20,000 kites to these islands' skies.

Kicked off in Manila in 1991, the annual event now includes 10 key cities around the country: Dumaguete, Cabanatuan, Tacloban, Naga, Puerto Princesa, Davao, Baguio, Cagayan de Oro, Kalibo and Metro Manila.

"We take into consideration the values of the brand, what we call the brand personality," says Trina Abola, brand manager for Bear Brand. "If it's a family brand, then the event must be family-oriented, too. Our theme is always about family. Anything goes as long as it's related to family values." (Bear Brand is touted as The Ideal Family Milk.)

We could see how the kitefest had succeeded, judging by the number of whole families—from the *masa* to the executives—camping out for the event that day from early morning to late afternoon.

The children were particularly enthusiastic. Dozens of tots were running after the kites, and their parents could only do so much chasing them around. But then the adults were just as enthusiastic, posing their tots in front of the kites and taking their pictures.



"PEACE on Earth" of Edgar Cano, first prize, Geometric Kite Category, Adult Division

Arresting designs

In 1993, the festival won an Anvil Award for being "an outstanding public relations program in support of marketing and advertising." It is also commendable for encouraging, honing and showcasing the Filipino's native knowledge of aerodynamics and creativity in developing visually arresting designs.

The competition comprises three categories (flat kite, two-dimensional or two-faced kite; geometric kite, three-dimensional with basic shape, string and combination; figure kite, three-dimensional with theme and realistic shape), in four divisions (elementary, children aged 6-12 years old; high school, 13-16 years old; college, 17-21 years old; adult; 22 years old and above).

SPIDER-MAN rules.

Minimum size of the kite must be 2 ft x 2 ft. Materials to be used should be paper, cloth, wood, bamboo, and no metal except as connectors.

"Nothing high-tech *para even ang* competition," says Abola. "They should be easy-to-find materials, indigenous, so that everybody can afford. And no metal *para hindi makasakit*."

Batch by batch, participants are arranged at centerfield according to categories and divisions. Airborne marshals assist them for the launch.

Flying time for the kites is 2-3 minutes, with a one-minute launch period. Kites that fail to take off within the launch period are disqualified.

Awaited portion

Criteria for judging are the kites' visual impact on the ground and while airborne. There are special awards as well: Saranggola ni Bear Brand, for the best-flying kites during the free-flying period; and Super Kite, for the biggest flying kite in the figure-kite category.

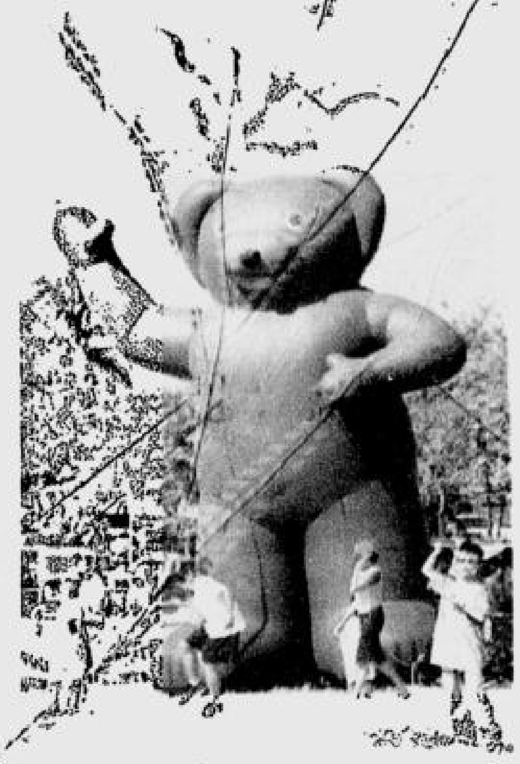
Those kites were folk art at its best as well as marvels of aerodynamics. They looked like airborne murals and floating sculptures, bold in shapes and wild in coloration. We got gooseflesh as they started rising in the air to stirring music from the sound system, ranging from maxi-mix to Gregorian chant, from Axl Rose to movie themes from "Rocky," "Superman," "The Omen."

Particularly enchanting was the one composed of 20 uniform, basic-shaped flat kites of orange and indigo strung together on a nylon cord. As it bobbed up and down, contracted and expanded, then rippled in the air, it looked like a mythical serpent iridescent in the afternoon light.

The most awaited portion was the launch of the figure kites. This was announced by the cry: "*Nandito na ang mga—hayop!*"

And, indeed, there came what looked like wings of mythological creatures: bat with butterfly wings, orange aruana, green turtle, yellow cobra, black stallion, black bull, tarsier, witch on broomstick, hawk, dove, dragonfly, butterfly, wasp, mantis, squid, speedboat, cart. They boggled the mind.

The kite-flyers were almost exclusively male. We espied one girl. For that alone—venturing into this traditionally male domain—we thought she should be given a commendation at once. And, in a sky swarming with wild shapes and ferocious-looking visages, she was flying a kite shaped like a carrot. (A double commendation then.)



GIANT butterfly hovers over giant mascot.

Most astonishing

The most astonishing was the giant figure of Spider-Man that no one thought could possibly be lifted into the air. Made of red and blue parachute fabric covered with transparent plastic, it was furnished with wings painted with images of skyscrapers and lightning flashes, and balloons saying: "Your friendly neighbor..." "*Ay, si* Spider!" "*Oo nga!*" "Amazing!" "*Lilipad kaya?*" "*Siyempre!*"

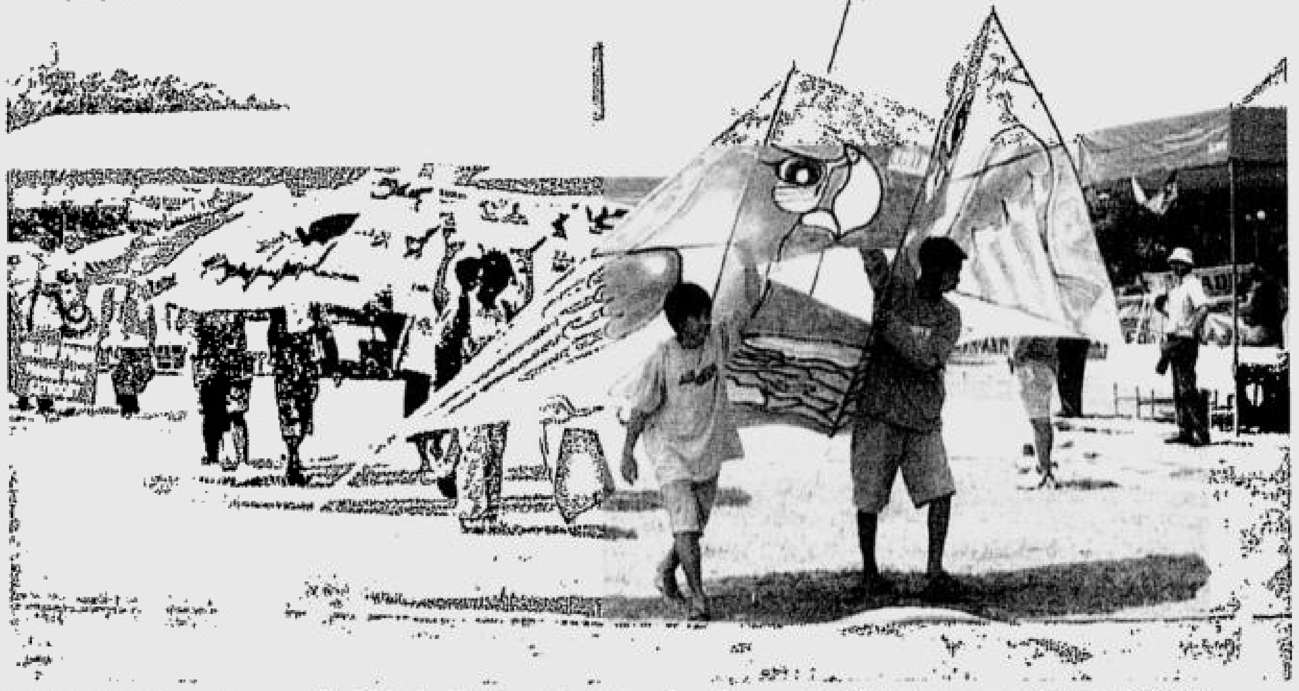
It was so huge it had to be drawn by 10 nylon strings connected to the main cord, and pulled by at least three men. As it started to rise and rode on the crest of the wind, the multitude gasped, cheered and gaped. It was low-flying, naturally, but it was clearly a winner.

As soon as the countdown was over, it crashed down. There was wild cheering all around. Even owners of rival kites were cheering. And, indeed, the owner, Erik Nicolas, won first prize in the figure-kite category, adult division, and, of course, grabbed the Super Kite Award.

Nicolas said the kite was constructed by four people for three weeks, at a cost of about P2,000. For the two grand prizes, he received P11,000 from Nestlé Philippines. As expected, Nicolas hailed from Angeles City, Pampanga.

There was another family who must also be Kapampangan—the Cajulaos—as everyone in the family, including immediate relatives, won numerous awards. As the names of Wilmar, Benjamin, Gemma, Jayson and Alvin Cajulao were called onstage one after another, the emcee commented: "*Sila ang* ideal kite-flying family."

THE KITES are often bigger than their flyers.



"PARROT of the Airwaves" of Marjo del Rosario, first prize, Geometric Kite Category, College Division

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Country fun for city slickers

From page C8

who prefer peace and quiet can go to one shady corner of the resort and read a book, disturbed only by the chirping of birds. The younger set always out to meet and interact with people their age can go to the Friendship Pool. It is a place where they can just relax and get to know each other while cooling off. There will be fabulous eateries that will cater to young and old hungry tummies. The structure called Crazy River is for the adventurous types who want a three-story plunge to be the highlight of their vacation. Powdery white sand? They have it, too, so beach volleyball enthusiasts can have the time of their life. Beach bums can just lie in the sand and do nothing.

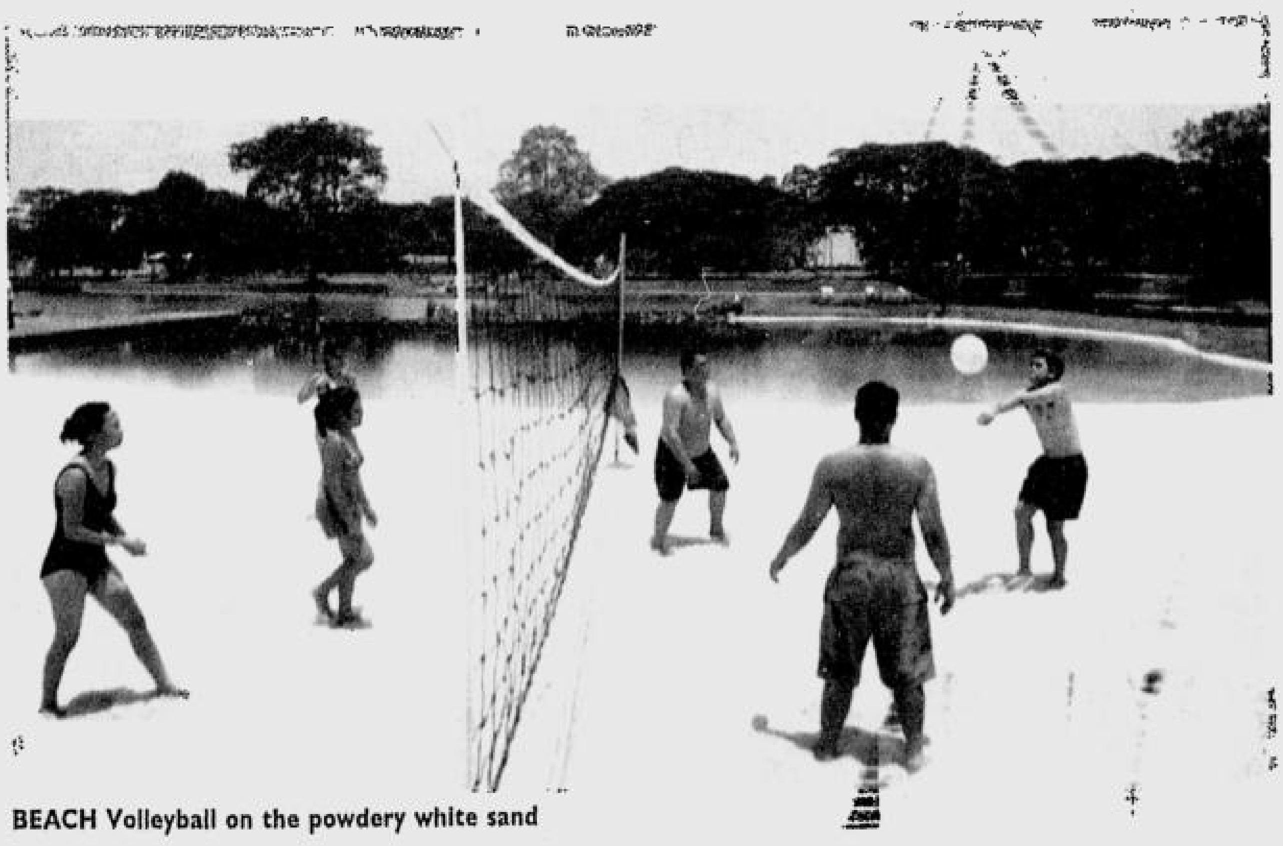
Camping

Have you ever wanted to go camping but didn't want the inconvenience of being food for critters or bringing all that equipment to produce your own chow? Here's good news for overgrown Boy and Girl Scouts. There are air-conditioned tents complete with beds, TV sets, VCRs and even Internet connection. People can commune with nature and avail of the amenities that make life comfortable. A spa and gym will be built so health buffs won't have to miss a day of working out or pampering themselves.

Weary city slickers who want to experience the North American lifestyle (fishing, boating, the works) now have a place to go. Parents who want their children to know how it feels to wade in a lake with fish circling their feet now have a place to go. Those who want to see other shades of blue apart from the light that emanates from their computer monitors can now run to a place that is just one to two hours away from Manila.

There were children in the area when we went there. They were marveling at the sound of stones plopping in the water and were in awe of the ripples the rocks made as they threw in more. Other kids might have to listen to such sounds and see that sight in a computer game. We wouldn't want that to happen.

With all that I have seen, I am thankful that I had several years of fun in the sun when I was growing up. I had enough trees to climb and rivers to wade in. There were no resorts of this kind during my time but back then there was no urgent need for them. Now with our bodies and souls slowly being eaten away by smog, radiation and senseless TV shows, Clearwater is the place where we can be human—and not mice.



BEACH Volleyball on the powdery white sand

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ROCKWELL Land vice president for project development Jay Lopez, design consultants Peter Hackman (Davis Langdon & Seah), Jeff Earl and Brian Van Oerle (WSP)

ROCKWELL Land president Tong Padilla with Power Plant Mall administrative manager Bien Carlotta, Jr. and the Sisters of Colegio de Santa Rosa

Flyover to Rockwell Center inaugurated

THE INFRASTRUCTURE to make Rockwell Center, a fully integrated "city within a city," more accessible to those living in the south is now open.

Rockwell Land and the Department of Public Works and Highways recently opened the Edsa-Estrella Ramp to the public. The P210-million, two-lane, one-way flyover connects north-bound Edsa (after Buendia or Gil Puyat St.) motorists to Estrella in Makati.

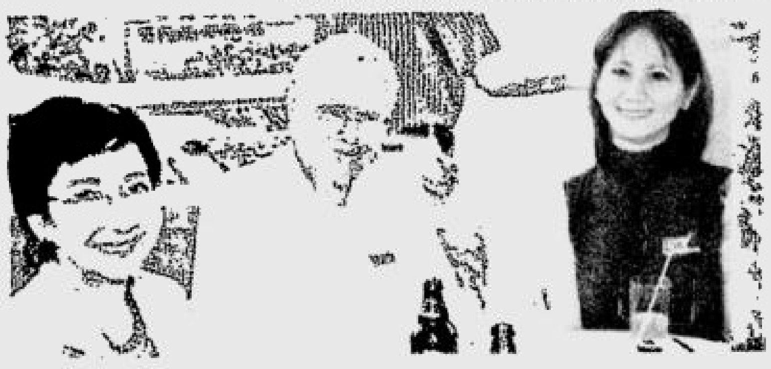
Guests during the inauguration were led by Lopez Group of Companies chair Oscar Lopez, Rockwell Land chair Manolo Lopez, Public Works undersecretary Manuel Bonoan, Makati City vice mayor Ernesto Mercado, and MMDA general manager Jaime Paz.

Other VIPs who were also in attendance were Rockwell Land president Tong Padilla; Maritess Lopez, wife of Rockwell Land chair Manolo Lopez; ABS-CBN Publishing Inc. president Ernie Lopez; Rockwell Residential Towers Condo Corp. chair Oscar Hilado; Rockwell Residential Towers Condo Corp. president Vicente Paterno; Rockwell Land vice president for project development Jay Lopez; Rockwell design consultants Peter Hackman (Davis Langdon & Seah), Jeff Earl and Brian Van Oerle (WSP), and contractor Robert Wong (William Uy Construction Corp.), among others.

PUBLIC Works undersecretary Manuel Bonoan and Oscar Lopez

MR and Ms Max Kienle

MAKATI vice mayor Ernesto Mercado, Bel-Air barangay captain Nene Lichauco, Rockwell Land chair Manolo Lopez, Lopez Group of Companies chair Oscar Lopez and Rockwell Residential Towers Condo Corp. president Vicente Paterno


NENE Lichauco with former Bel-air Village Association president Edgar Khron and Ditas Tuazon of SMDI Consultants Inc.

Init ng Iyong Yakap. Kung ang katumbas ng pagkabusog niya sa inihain mong sarap ay pagkabusog mo naman sa init ng kanyang mga yakap, di ba't sapat na ang lahat? Ang mga sandaling tulad nito ang inspirasyon sa bagong mukha ng Lucky Me!

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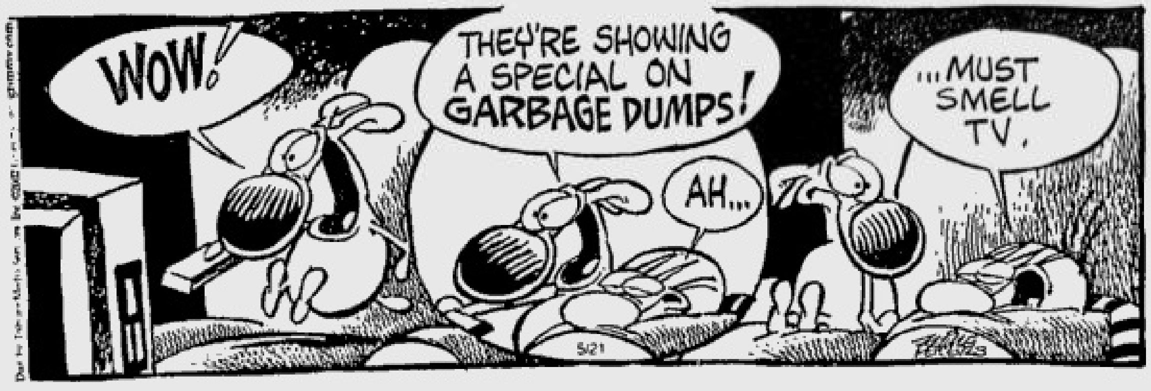
ComicRelief

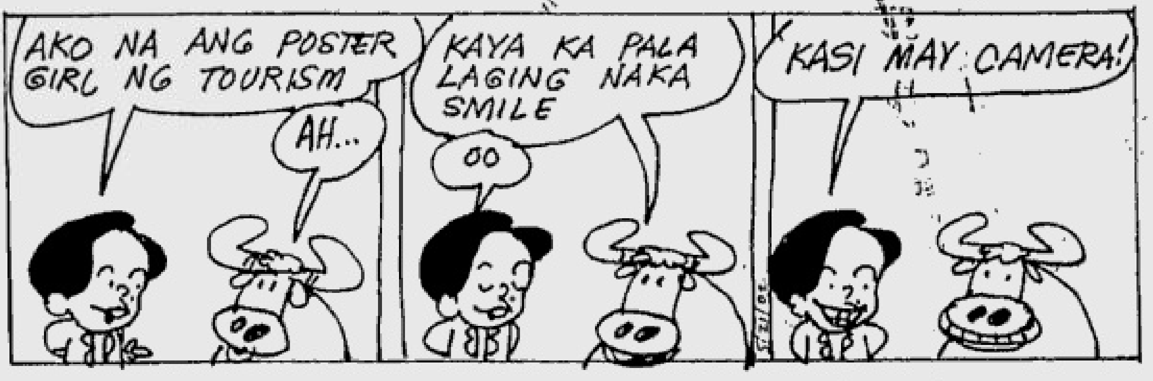
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


WOW!
THEY'RE SHOWING A SPECIAL ON GARBAGE DUMPS!
AH...
...MUST SMELL TV.
5/21

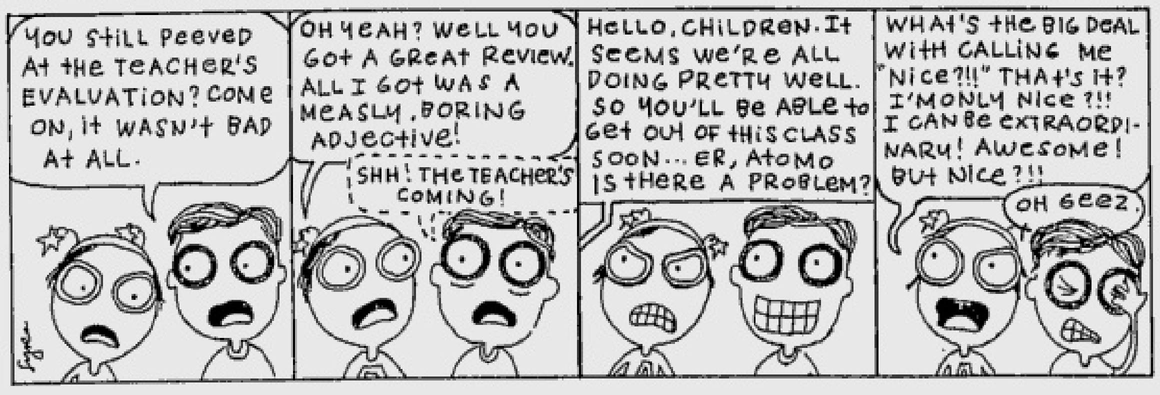
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


AKO NA ANG POSTER GIRL NG TOURISM
AH...
KAYA KA PALA LAGING NAKA SMILE
OO
KASI MAY CAMERA!

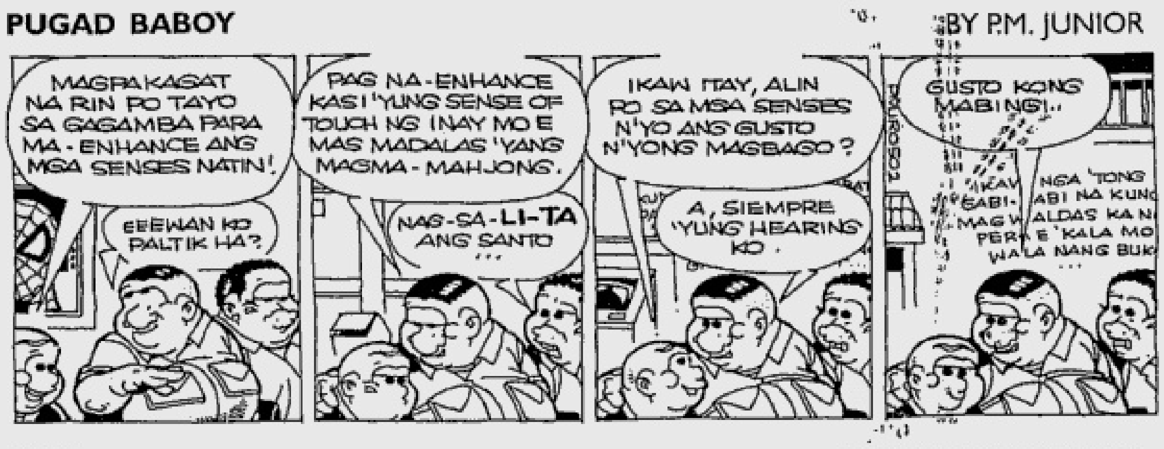
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


YOU STILL PEEVED AT THE TEACHER'S EVALUATION? COME ON, IT WASN'T BAD AT ALL.
OH YEAH? WELL YOU GOT A GREAT REVIEW. ALL I GOT WAS A MEASLY, BORING ADJECTIVE!
SHH! THE TEACHER'S COMING!
HELLO, CHILDREN. IT SEEMS WE'RE ALL DOING PRETTY WELL. SO YOU'LL BE ABLE TO GET OUT OF THIS CLASS SOON... ER, ATOMO IS THERE A PROBLEM?
WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL WITH CALLING ME "NICE?!!" THAT'S IT? I'M ONLY NICE?!! I CAN BE EXTRAORDINARY! AWESOME! BUT NICE?!!
OH GEEZ.

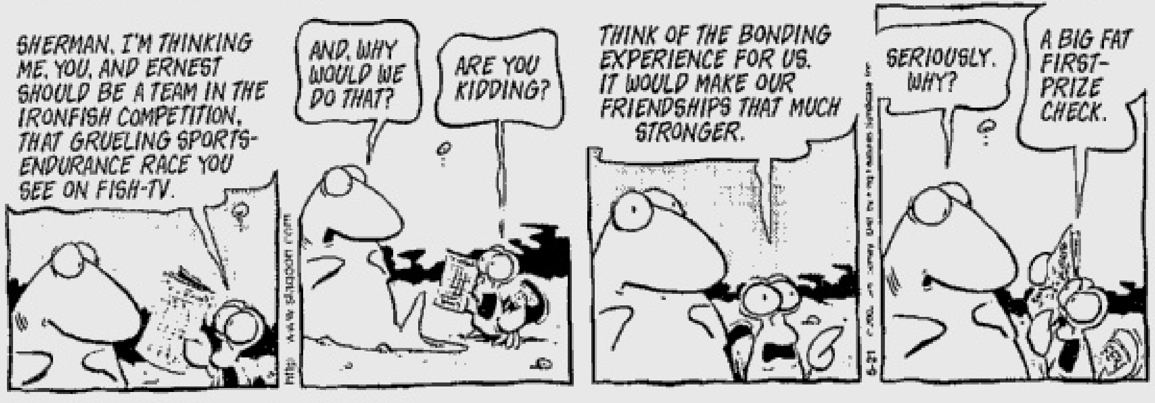
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


MAGPAKAGAT NA RIN PO TAYO SA GAGAMBA PARA MA-ENHANCE ANG MGA SENSES NATIN!
EEEWAN KO PALTIK HA?
PAG NA-ENHANCE KASI 'YUNG SENSE OF TOUCH NG INAY MO E MAS MADALAS 'YANG MAGMA-MAHJONG.
NAG-SA-LI-TA ANG SANTO ...
IKAW ITAY, ALIN PO SA MGA SENSES N'YO ANG GUSTO N'YONG MAGBAGO?
A, SIEMPRE 'YUNG HEARING KO.
GUSTO KONG MABINGI..
'KAW NGA 'TONG SABI-ABI NA KUN MAGWALDAS KA N PERA E 'KALA MO WALA NANG BUK

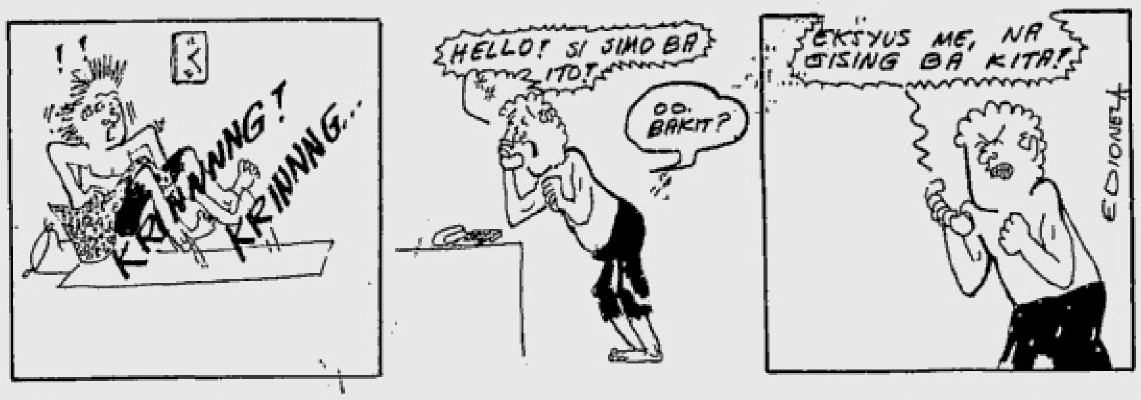
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


SHERMAN, I'M THINKING ME, YOU, AND ERNEST SHOULD BE A TEAM IN THE IRONFISH COMPETITION, THAT GRUELING SPORTS-ENDURANCE RACE YOU SEE ON FISH-TV.
AND, WHY WOULD WE DO THAT?
ARE YOU KIDDING?
THINK OF THE BONDING EXPERIENCE FOR US. IT WOULD MAKE OUR FRIENDSHIPS THAT MUCH STRONGER.
SERIOUSLY. WHY?
A BIG FAT FIRST-PRIZE CHECK.

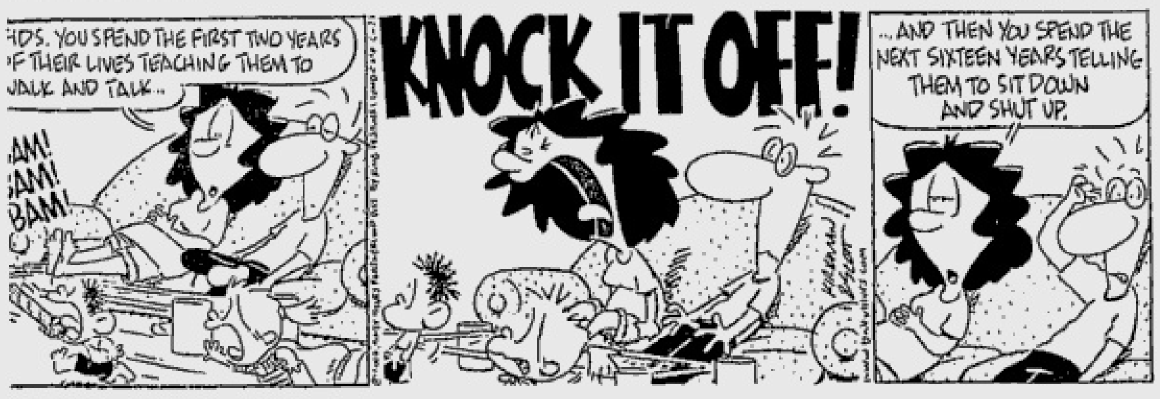
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


KRINNNG! KRINNNG...
HELLO! SI SIMO BA ITO?
OO. BAKIT?
EKSYUS ME, NA GISING BA KITA?!
EDIONELA

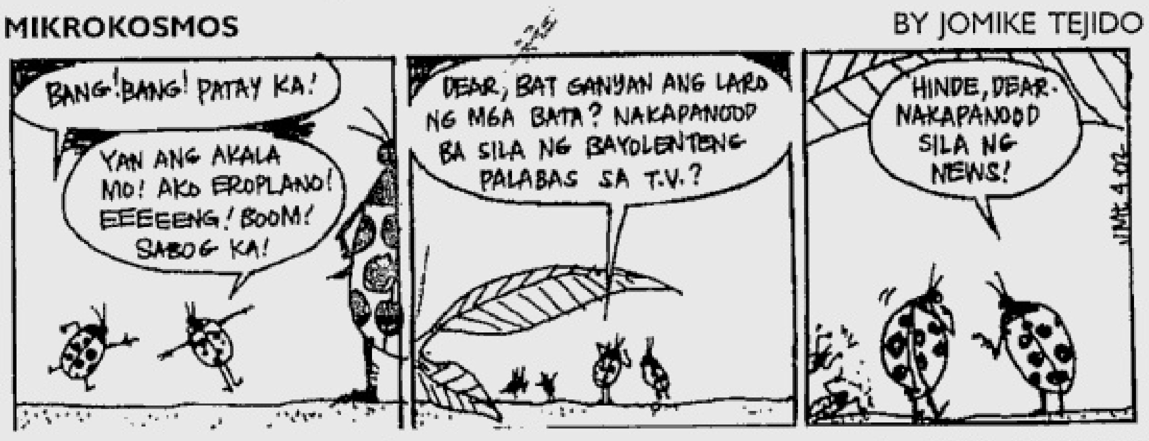
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


KIDS. YOU SPEND THE FIRST TWO YEARS OF THEIR LIVES TEACHING THEM TO WALK AND TALK...
BAM! BAM! BAM!
KNOCK IT OFF!
...AND THEN YOU SPEND THE NEXT SIXTEEN YEARS TELLING THEM TO SIT DOWN AND SHUT UP.

MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


BANG! BANG! PATAY KA!
YAN ANG AKALA MO! AKO EROPLANO! EEEEEENG! BOOM! SABOG KA!
DEAR, BAT GANYAN ANG LARO NG MGA BATA? NAKAPANOOD BA SILA NG BAYOLENTENG PALABAS SA T.V.?
HINDE, DEAR. NAKAPANOOD SILA NG NEWS!

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Harold Robbins, Fairuza Balk, Mr. T

Happy Birthday: Your ability to intuitively understand your friends and lovers will help you form solid unions this year. You will be attracted to creative groups that can offer you the inspiration you need to develop your own talents. You will use your intuitive awareness to get ahead in business. Your numbers are 11, 15, 21, 28, 32, 40

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Take greater pride in what you do. Your efforts will be noticed and you will find yourself well on your way to advancement. Your ability to take charge r will be admired.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You will enjoy getting together with friends today. Plan a meal that will allow you all to sit back and share. You will have the desire to do something a little out of the ordinary.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Someone may not be giving you all the information you require. You'll be in a serious mood so delve in and do the best you can.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You've got to get out and do things. Call friends or get involved in an organization you truly believe in. The main thing is not to sit at home thinking about it.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): It's best to go it alone and do the best you can today. Someone you deal with is likely to make you look bad if you are trying to lean on him or her.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't let your emotions get you down today. Your practical approach to work will help you receive favors from those who want to work alongside you. Use your innovative ideas to get ahead.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Get involved in ethnic events today that will help you discover all about different traditions. This will spark all sorts of interesting ideas that you can incorporate into your own life.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Someone may try to get you to donate to a cause that you really aren't positive about. Hold on to your cash today. You need it more than anyone else. Investments are not likely to go according to plan.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You may want to put partnerships on the back burner today. It will be difficult to get others to see your point of view. Concentrate on doing your own thing and you will do just fine.

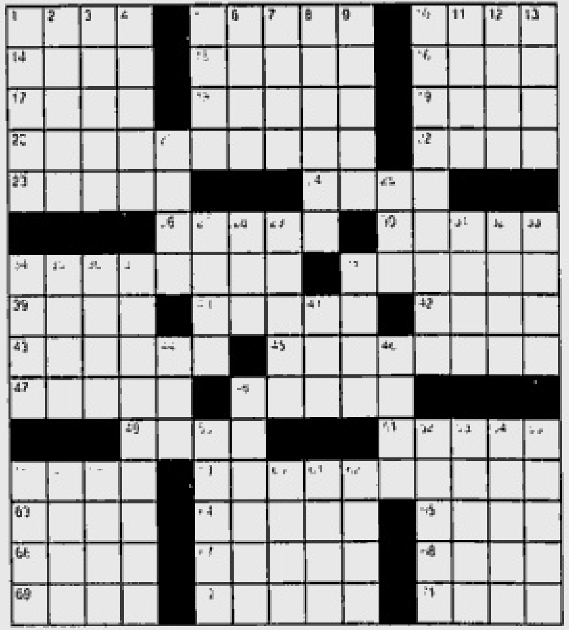
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You'll have to push to get what you want today but it will be worth your while. Don't let minor setbacks stand in your way. Be prepared.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't let anyone railroad you into investing in something that is risky. You should look out for a family member who may be having difficulty managing his or her personal papers. Your kindness will be rewarded.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't let your anxious feeling get you into trouble. Keep busy doing things that will help you improve yourself and your mood. Someone you care about may be a little difficult to get along with. You may want to avoid this person today.

Birthday Baby: You are an emotional, sensitive dreamer. Your imagination is vivid. You will be popular because of your empathetic nature. Your main concern in all you do will be quality, not quantity.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Roger Coburn
Summerville, GA

5/21/02

ACROSS
1 Play lead
5 Soothsayers
10 Small restaurant
14 Musical Porter
15 Direction symbol
16 Manipulated
17 Colonial blackbirds
18 Italian friends
19 Haul
20 Get out of here
22 To a distance
23 Oodles
24 Cable station
26 Make ends meet?
30 Really dig
34 Hold back
38 Rut
39 __ podrida
40 Addressed the crowd
42 Do-others separator
43 Robert and Amanda
45 Type of collar
47 Sen. Kefauver
48 With 49A, Asian dog
49 See 48A
51 Fate
56 For one
59 Get out of here
63 Knish store
64 Video-game company
65 "Ars Amatoria" poet
66 Alcove
67 Hit the high points
68 Market
69 Starter chips
70 Objects on stage
71 Scottish Gaelic

DOWN
1 Con man's cons
2 Of sound quality
3 Not at all different
4 Repair a hem
5 Moselle feeder
6 Writer Bombeck
7 Clapton or Ambler
8 Lullaby location
9 Cheese choice
10 Get out of here
11 From
12 Greek salad requirement
13 German river
21 Russian emperor
25 City near Lourdes
27 Highland honey
28 Cause to topple
29 Methuselah's father
31 Caen's river
32 Campus mil. grp.
33 Cuddly George Lucas creature
34 Spa garment
35 Building extensions
36 Blind part
37 Get out of here
38 Fixed charges
41 Malay isthmus
44 Psychic's ability
46 Pre-funeral rite
48 Hang around
50 Clearly detailed
52 Left bed
53 Wanderer
54 Posts
55 Make confused
56 Best of Hollywood
57 Seemingly forever?
58 Blood formation
60 Tex-Mex order
61 Setup
62 Pelvic projections

Monday's Puzzle Solved

M	A	L	L	E	■	W	H	E	Y	■	W	A	N	T
I	L	I	A	D	■	E	U	R	O	■	I	G	O	R
C	A	L	L	I	T	A	D	A	Y	■	T	A	R	O
E	S	T	A	T	E	S	■	S	O	P	H	I	S	T
■	■	■	■	H	E	E	L	■	■	R	E	N	F	S
A	C	C	T	■	S	L	E	N	D	E	R	■	■	■
C	O	O	K	S	■	■	T	O	O	T	■	A	W	E
T	H	R	O	W	I	N	T	H	E	T	O	W	E	L
S	O	N	■	E	R	I	E	■	■	Y	P	R	E	S
■	■	■	D	E	E	P	R	E	D	■	T	Y	P	E
A	S	S	E	T	■	■	S	L	A	P	■	■	■	■
G	L	A	S	S	E	S	■	E	R	R	A	N	D	S
L	A	K	E	■	C	H	I	C	K	E	N	O	U	T
O	V	E	R	■	H	O	O	T	■	S	T	U	D	Y
W	E	S	T	■	O	P	U	S	■	S	E	N	S	E

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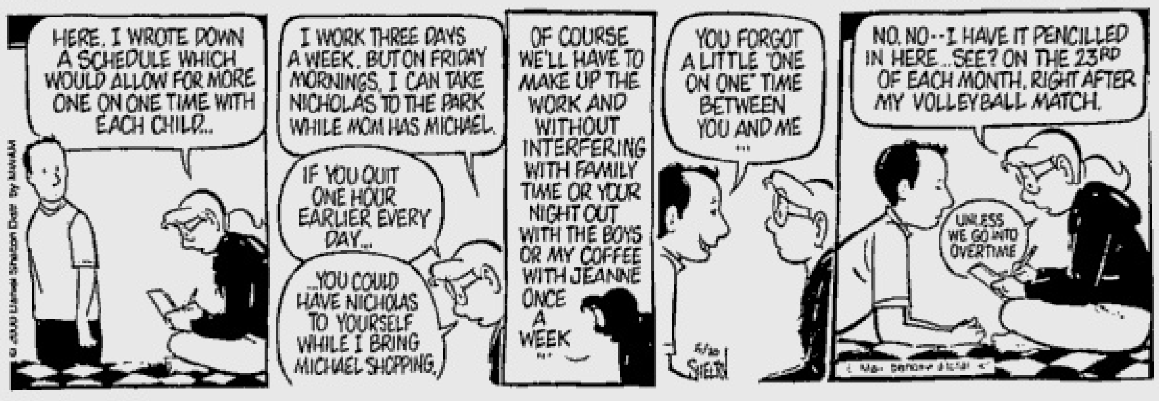
5/21/02

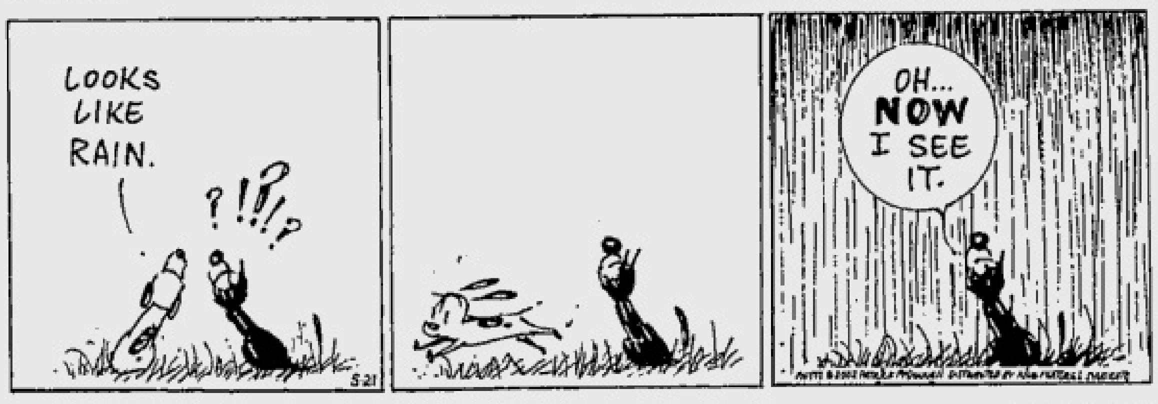
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


HERE. I WROTE DOWN A SCHEDULE WHICH WOULD ALLOW FOR MORE ONE ON ONE TIME WITH EACH CHILD...
I WORK THREE DAYS A WEEK. BUT ON FRIDAY MORNINGS, I CAN TAKE NICHOLAS TO THE PARK WHILE MOM HAS MICHAEL.
IF YOU QUIT ONE HOUR EARLIER EVERY DAY...
...YOU COULD HAVE NICHOLAS TO YOURSELF WHILE I BRING MICHAEL SHOPPING.
OF COURSE WE'LL HAVE TO MAKE UP THE WORK AND WITHOUT INTERFERING WITH FAMILY TIME OR YOUR NIGHT OUT WITH THE BOYS OR MY COFFEE WITH JEANNE ONCE A WEEK
YOU FORGOT A LITTLE "ONE ON ONE" TIME BETWEEN YOU AND ME
NO, NO--I HAVE IT PENCILLED IN HERE...SEE? ON THE 23RD OF EACH MONTH, RIGHT AFTER MY VOLLEYBALL MATCH.
UNLESS WE GO INTO OVERTIME
SHELTON

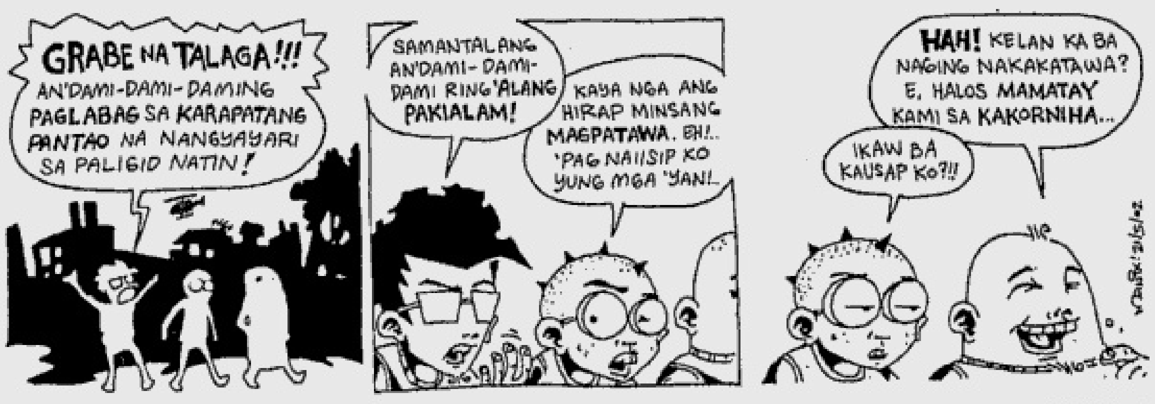
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


LOOKS LIKE RAIN.
?!!?
OH... NOW I SEE IT.
5.21

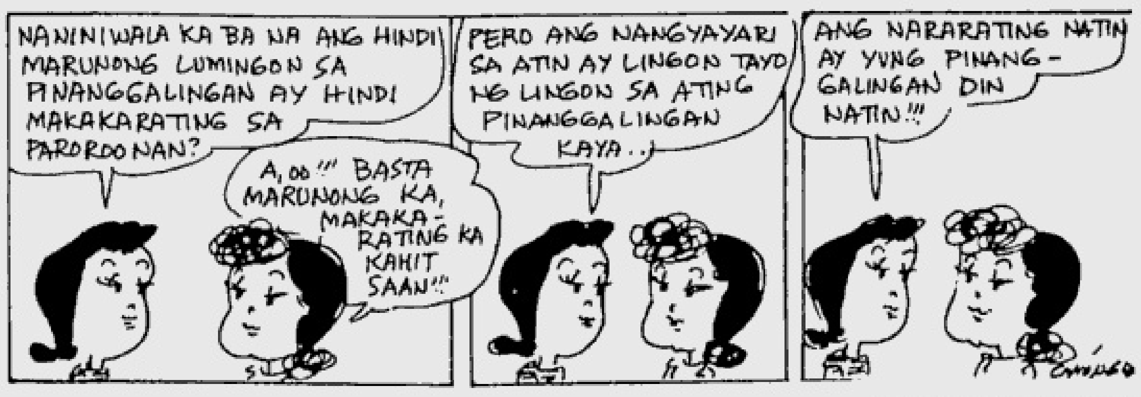
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


GRABE NA TALAGA!!! AN'DAMI-DAMI-DAMING PAGLABAG SA KARAPATANG PANTAO NA NANGYAYARI SA PALIGID NATIN!
SAMANTALANG AN'DAMI-DAMI-DAMI RING 'ALANG PAKIALAM!
KAYA NGA ANG HIRAP MINSANG MAGPATAWA. EH!.. 'PAG NAIISIP KO YUNG MGA 'YAN!..
HAH! KELAN KA BA NAGING NAKAKATAWA? E, HALOS MAMATAY KAMI SA KAKORNIHA...
IKAW BA KAUSAP KO?!!

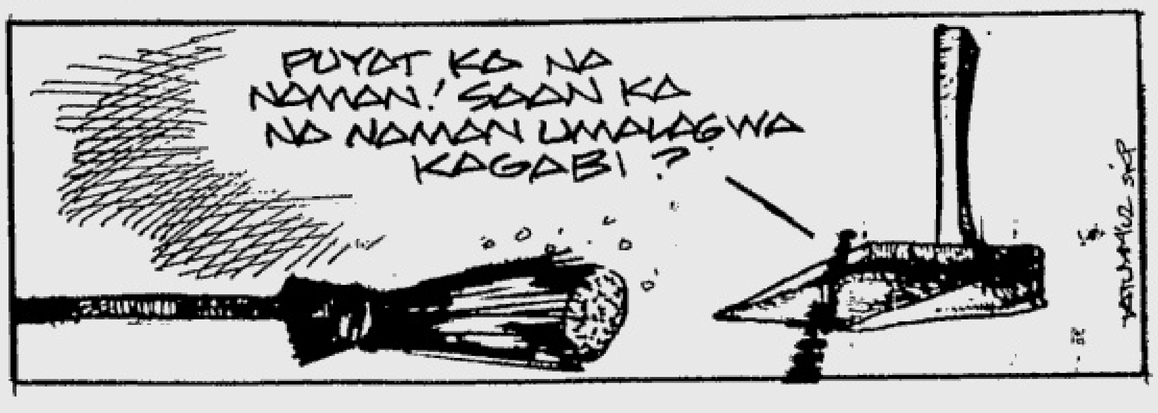
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


NANINIWALA KA BA NA ANG HINDI MARUNONG LUMINGON SA PINANGGALINGAN AY HINDI MAKAKARATING SA PAROROONAN?
A, OO!!! BASTA MARUNONG KA, MAKAKA-RATING KA KAHIT SAAN!!!
PERO ANG NANGYAYARI SA ATIN AY LINGON TAYO NG LINGON SA ATING PINANGGALINGAN KAYA..
ANG NARARATING NATIN AY YUNG PINANG-GALINGAN DIN NATIN!!!

TULDOK

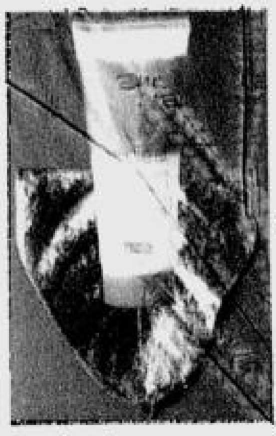
BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


PUYAT KA NA NAMAN! SAAN KA NA NAMAN UMALAGWA KAGABI?

4 easy steps to healthy skin

HEALTHY-LOOKING skin may very well be just four steps away with Bench's new Easy Clear skin care line.

Formulated to help prevent skin problems such as pimples, the Easy Clear line is dermatologically-tested to be ideal for any skin type. It gently and effectively removes deep-seated dirt and excess oils, leaving your face smooth, clean and acne-free.



Its active ingredient is tea tree oil, recognized worldwide as one of nature's most valuable healing tools and can effectively kill a wide range of bacteria. Tea tree oil has, in fact, a 60-year history of safe usage, a record unmatched by any other natural product. It is also anti-fungal and germicidal, providing all-around antiseptic care, making it an ideal skincare ingredient for blemished skin. This essential oil effectively penetrates deep within the dermal layer where new cells are formed.

The Easy Clear line is composed of four products: Facial Wash (75 ml for P65), Facial Toner (75 ml for P50), Facial Moisturizing Gel (75 ml for P60) and Spots Gel (20 ml for P75).

The Facial Wash (step 1) deep-cleanses and removes excess oil, grime and dirt that can clog the pores and lead to pimple-causing bacteria. The Facial Toner (step 2) removes the last traces of dirt and make-up that may have been left behind. It helps restore the natural pH level of the skin. The Facial Moisturizing Gel (step 3) has ceramide beads to replace your skin's lost moisture. The ceramide beads help maintain the skin's moisture level all day and prevent vital moisture loss, leaving skin feeling silky smooth. And lastly, there's the Spots Gel (step 4), which immediately dries up unsightly pimples without leaving any scars or marks on your face.

Easy Clear skin care products are available at all Bench, Herbench and PCX stores.

Nothing short of a grand prize

SALON de Manila's Pin Antonio was recently named the grand winner in the 1st Davines World Style Award for Asia.

The Asian competition is a prelude to what is like the Grand Prix in hairstyling to be held in Rome in November. Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam, Hong Kong, Korea, New Zealand, and the Philippines brought one model each to display their hairstyles in the Asian competition held at the Capital Tower on Robinson Street in Singapore on April 27 and 28.

The competitors underwent rigid examinations. First, they had to fill a technical questionnaire before undergoing a step-by-step technical interrogation the day before the competition. There was an interrogation room where only qualified personnel were allowed to enter. Video cameras were restricted. Showmanship and technical competence were required of the participants.

Total look

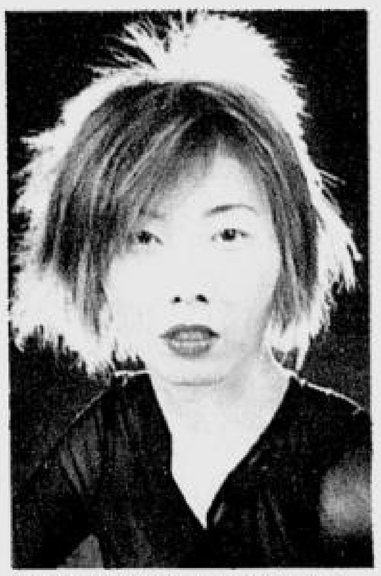
The World Style contest is a total look competition based on a street-style look. The stylist's creations should be more of real life fashion than artistic. Make-up guidelines suggested a pure and simple look. Only Davines' hair products were to be used and competitors were asked to provide a name for their hairstyles. They were also asked to bring clothes and accessories for their models. For Emma Ruiz, three men from General Santos City, namely Dodgie, Aztec and Popoy, teamed up for her very contemporary attire. Gary Lumapas, Antonio's senior hairstylist, assisted her.

All contestants and their models will be featured in the 1st Davines World Style book and in the video. They will also be featured in the Davines website and mentioned on local trade magazines.

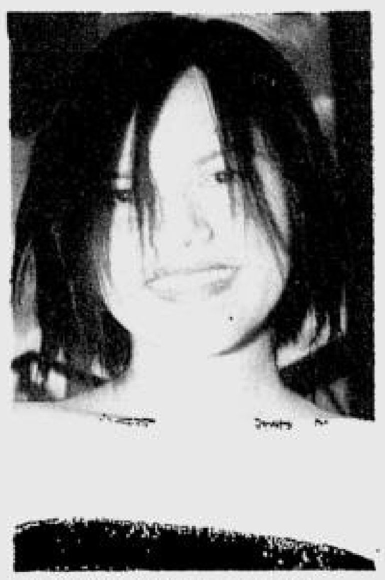
Another cause for celebration for Antonio is the soft opening of the latest Salon de Manila branch on the second floor of Bellagio Square at 243 Tomas Morato Avenue, Quezon City, with tel. 373-9510 to 11. The grand opening will be in June. Call Salon de Manila Banaue at 732-6014 or 732-1490; Salon de Manila Katipunan, 437-9796 to 97; Salon de Manila Stamford Court, 888-6651 or 887-5758; and Salon de Manila LPL Tower, 816-7920 or 817-6627.

PIN Antonio, the grand champion of Davines World Style contest, shown here with her model Emma Ruiz and two of several judges Mr. Andrew and Mr. David Mercer, both of Toni and Guy Hairdressing

PIN Antonio receiving her award from Dr. Davide Bollati, the managing director of Davines Group, Italy. The competitors are considered the best hairstylists in their countries.



"UNRESTRICTED with triad coloring hairstyle" by Pin Antonio, modeled by Renali Mercado.



"STREET-STYLE Look" by Lynn Haltland

Init ng Pag-aalaga. Ibinabalik niya sa kanyang ngiti at sa kanyang yakap ang alagang inaalay mo. At sa tuwing dadampi ang mga labi niya sa iyong pisngi... sasabihin mo sa iyong sarili, "Ang sarap maging Daddy". Ganitong mga saglit ang inspirasyon sa bagong mukha ng Lucky Me!

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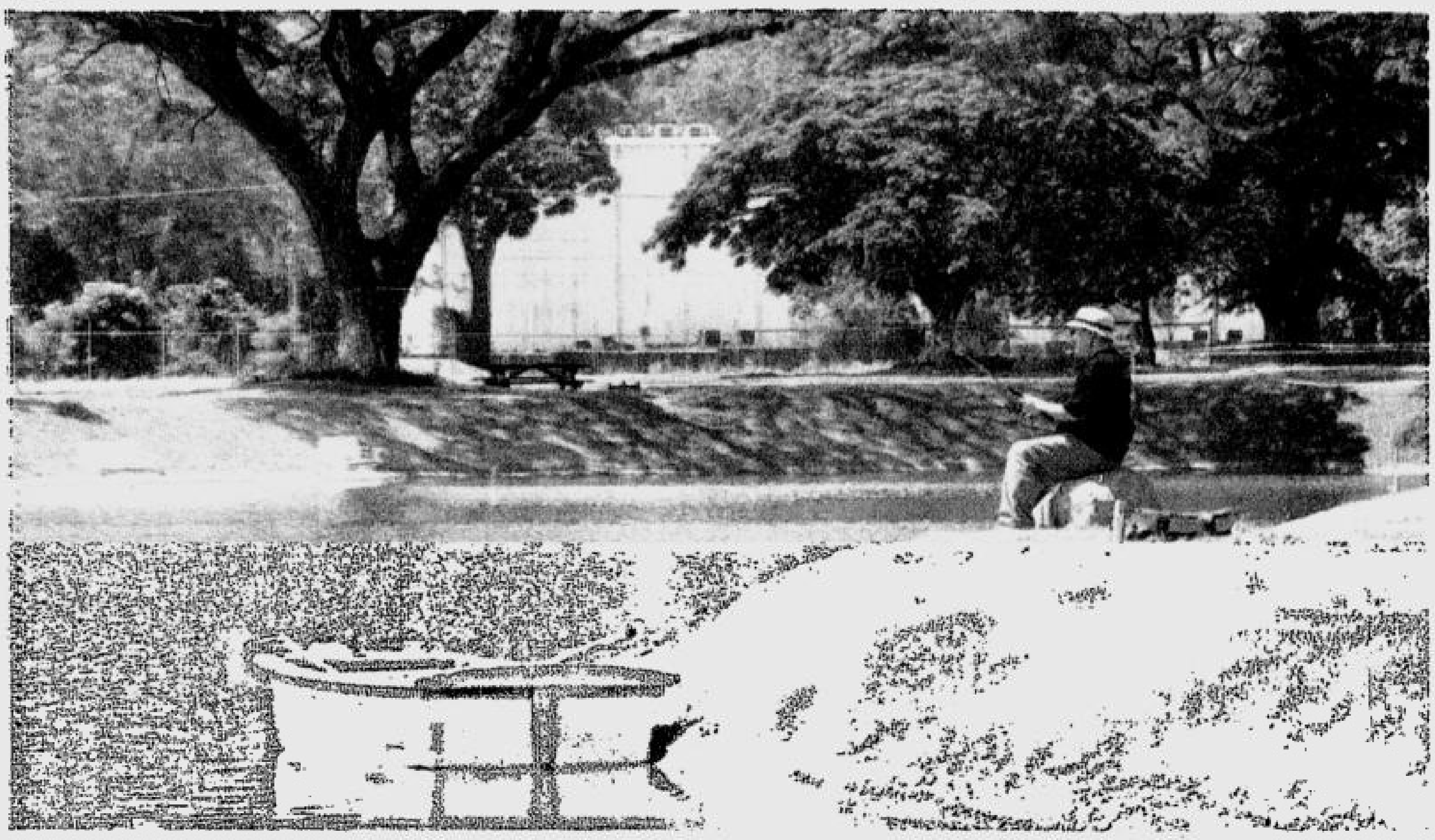


FRESHWATER fishing

THE FRIENDSHIP pool is a place where people can just relax and get to know each other while cooling off.

Country fun for city slickers

LAKESIDE partying complete with a campfire

By Louise M. Pascual
Contributor
Photos by Bobot Meru

ONLY when I settled in the city did I realize what a privilege it was to have grown up in a small town. When I left my hometown, I remember looking at the old guava tree that had winding vein-like branches that gave us fruit year after year. I said goodbye to it as I did the life I had always known. I was ready to take on the fast life and I swore to be a successful city mouse who would win in the rat race over and over and over again.

Well, today, not everything in my life is nice just like the life of other mice in the city. And I sometimes miss the quiet and peaceful surroundings of my childhood. I miss the guava tree.

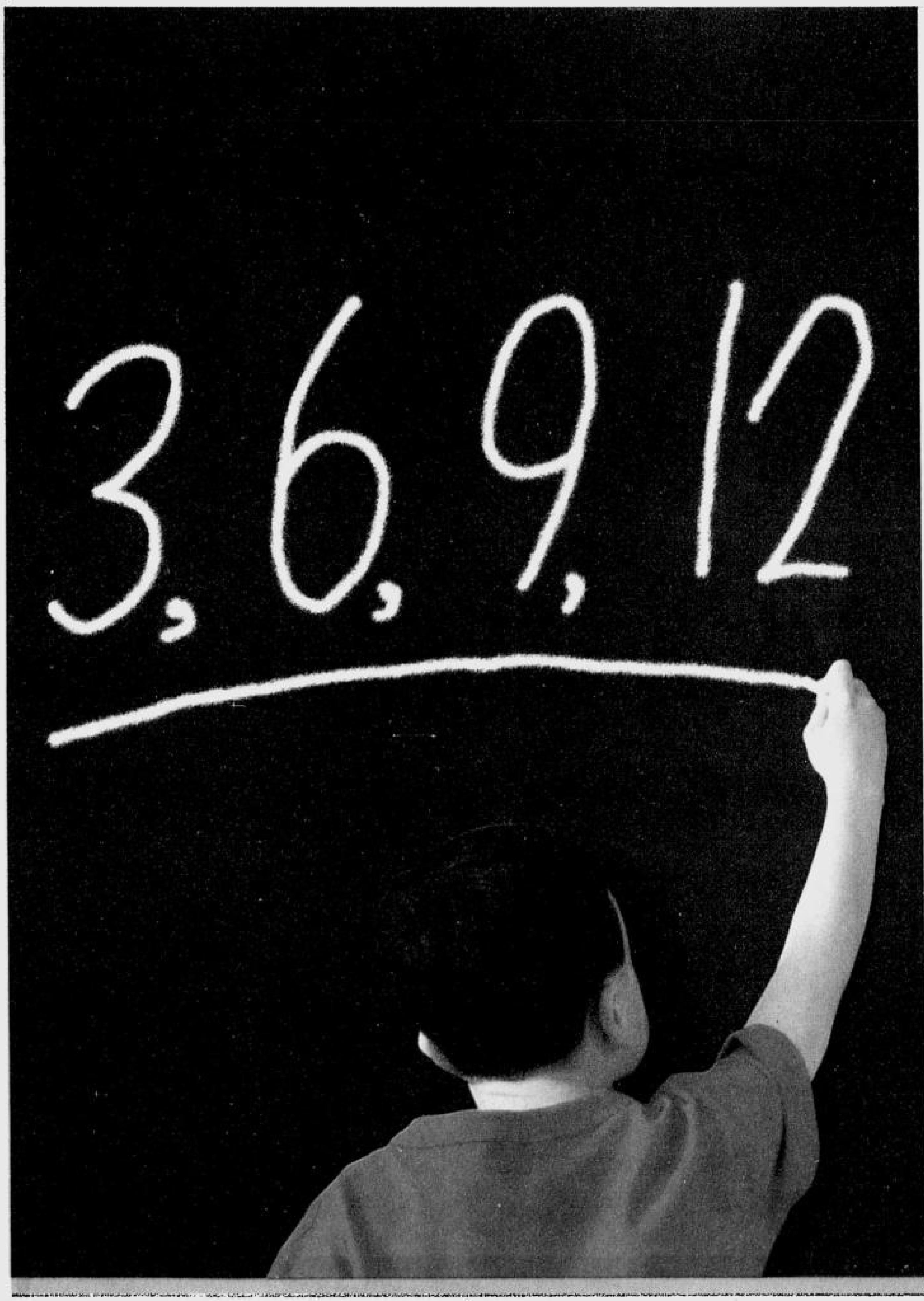
Childhood relived

My recent sojourn to the Clark Special Economic Zone proved to be more that just an exciting break. It was a way to relive my childhood. After all, I grew up in an adjacent province so the Kapampangan mood of the place had a positive effect on me. A friend and I went to Clearwater Country Club to see what all the fuss was about. The resort has created quite a buzz and the local girl (that's me) just had to check it out.

We had read in the papers that the country club was being put up by a Hong Kong-based developer, Yats Group of Companies, right at the heart of Central Luzon. The P400-million investment made by the company is paying off with the speedy construction of manmade lakes and other water attractions. Lodges and lockerhouses are also being built along with other structures. We were also told that hundreds of grown trees were planted in the area and these give shade from the blazing sun. The people who work together to put up the resort are its gems because they sure know how to get everyone in high spirits.

They told me the activities that await those who own or plan to buy shares from this exclusive club: they can swim, go fishing and boating, have wild parties by a bonfire. Those

COUNTRY/ p.C4



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DERMALIN

Benzoic Acid, Clioquinol, Sulfur, Salicylic Acid Menthol, Cetyl Alcohol

If symptoms persist, consult your doctor

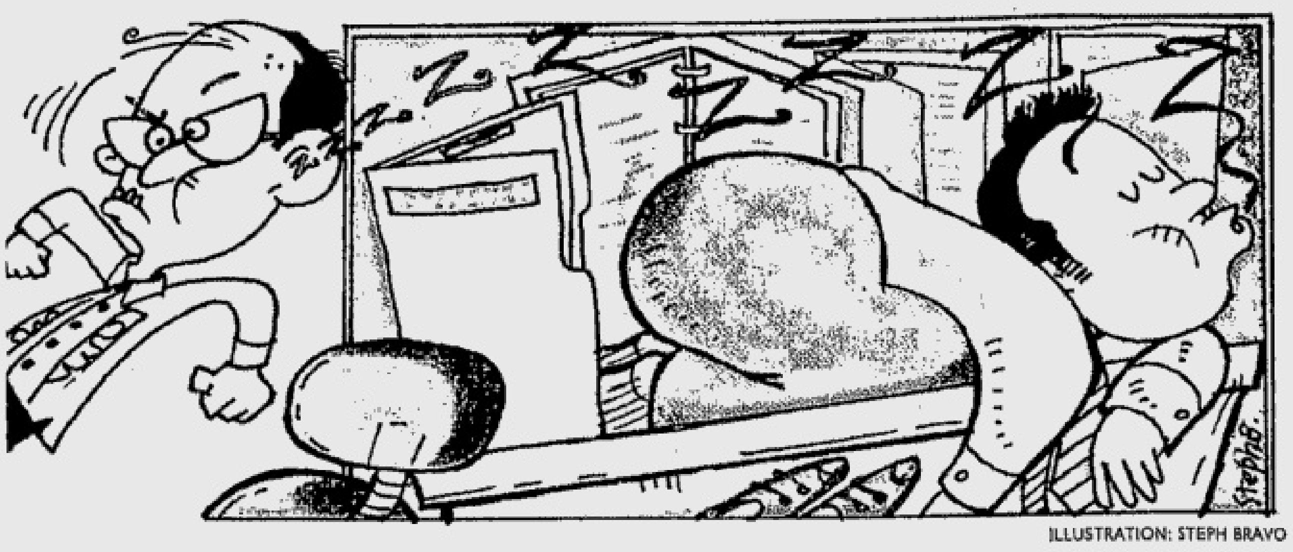


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Why you should listen to your body

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

HEALTH experts cannot say it often enough—"listen to your body."

The body speaks. There is a connection between your mind and your body, a direct line that communicates to us through signals—an ache here or a pain there—that we tend to ignore. Doctors will tell you that when you feel a symptom, it will be sheer folly to dismiss it.

Checklist

See if you have experienced any of these:

- Waking up tired despite getting enough sleep.
- Concentration is poor during the day.
- Dozing off.
- Sleepy just before a meal break.
- Anxious to get home and sleep.

If you answered yes to any one item, there is a great possibility that you have an energy problem and it is called fatigue.

When your body's output is greater than its input, an imbalance is created. This is the time your body tells you to slow down. If you don't, you can suffer from a breakdown.

Energy centers

The indisputable truth is that the following factors affect your energy level.

Diet. Are you eating the right energy foods? Studies have proven that raw food is "alive," in short, it retains the energy the body requires to function efficiently. Cooked food, on the other hand, does not have the high energy level of food in its raw state because cooking can destroy nutrients and enzymes.

Increase: Salads, fruits.

Decrease: Cooked food consumption.

Balance your consumption of protein and carbohydrates. Too much carbohydrates can cause a mild sedative effect on your body. Drink up! A dehydrated body is a candidate for fatigue.

Increase: Water intake to eight glasses a day and your activity level.

Exercise. Engage in cardiovascular activities such as brisk walking, jogging, running, racket sport, basketball, etc.

Decrease: Sitting around during your free time.

Supplements. A multivitamin-mineral supplement should be part of your breakfast regimen.

Mental state. The attitude you adopt towards life and all its problem is the key towards managing stress.

Increase: Your meditation time.

Energy booster

1 ripe banana

A slice of fresh pineapple

1 c nonfat milk (already mixed in water)

1 tsp honey (optional)

Mix in a blender and serve chilled. Loaded with potassium and phytochemicals, this ought to start your day right.

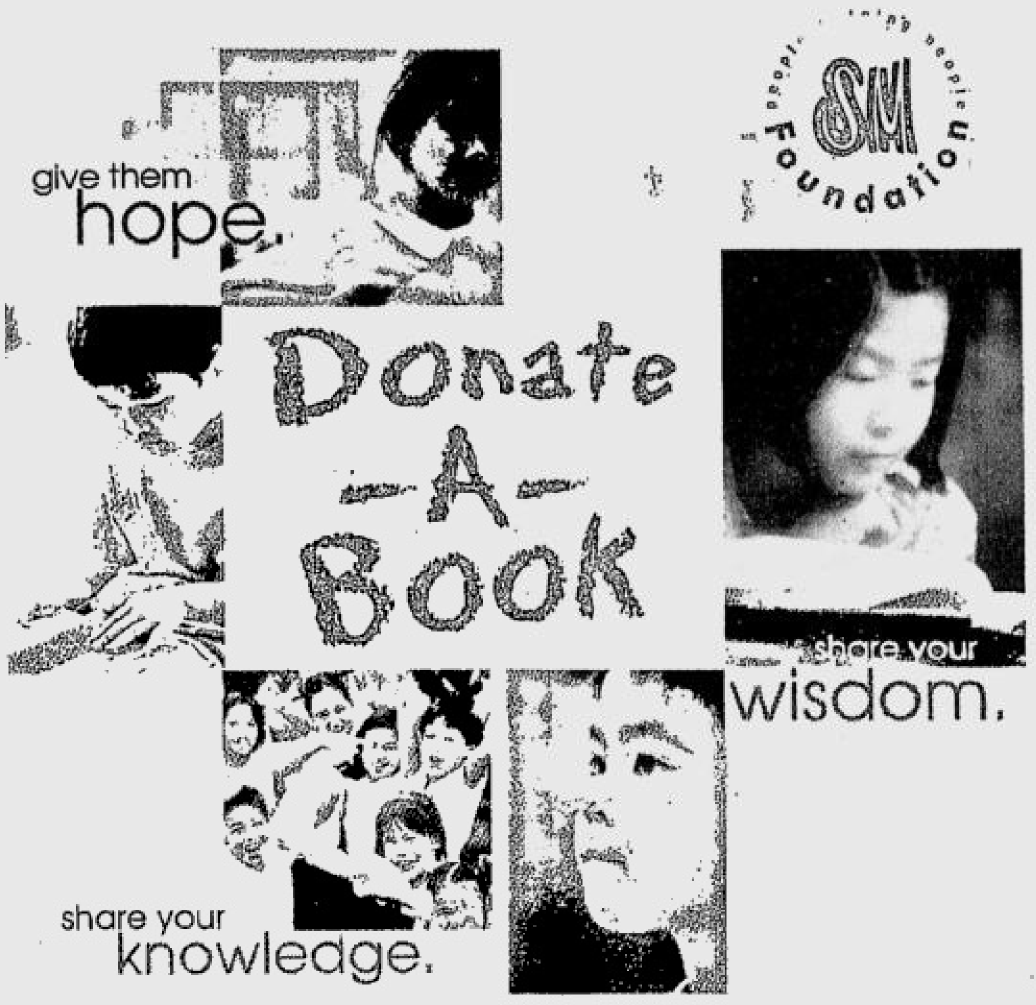
Meditation exercise

Imagine you are sitting on the seashore, waiting for the sunrise. As you see the rising sun, visualize it warming your body as its light becomes one with you. You are now a little ball of sunlight bursting with energy.

Your affirmation: "The sun and I are one."

To those who feel down and out and tired, I send you light!

E-mail the author at coryquirino_fy@yahoo.com



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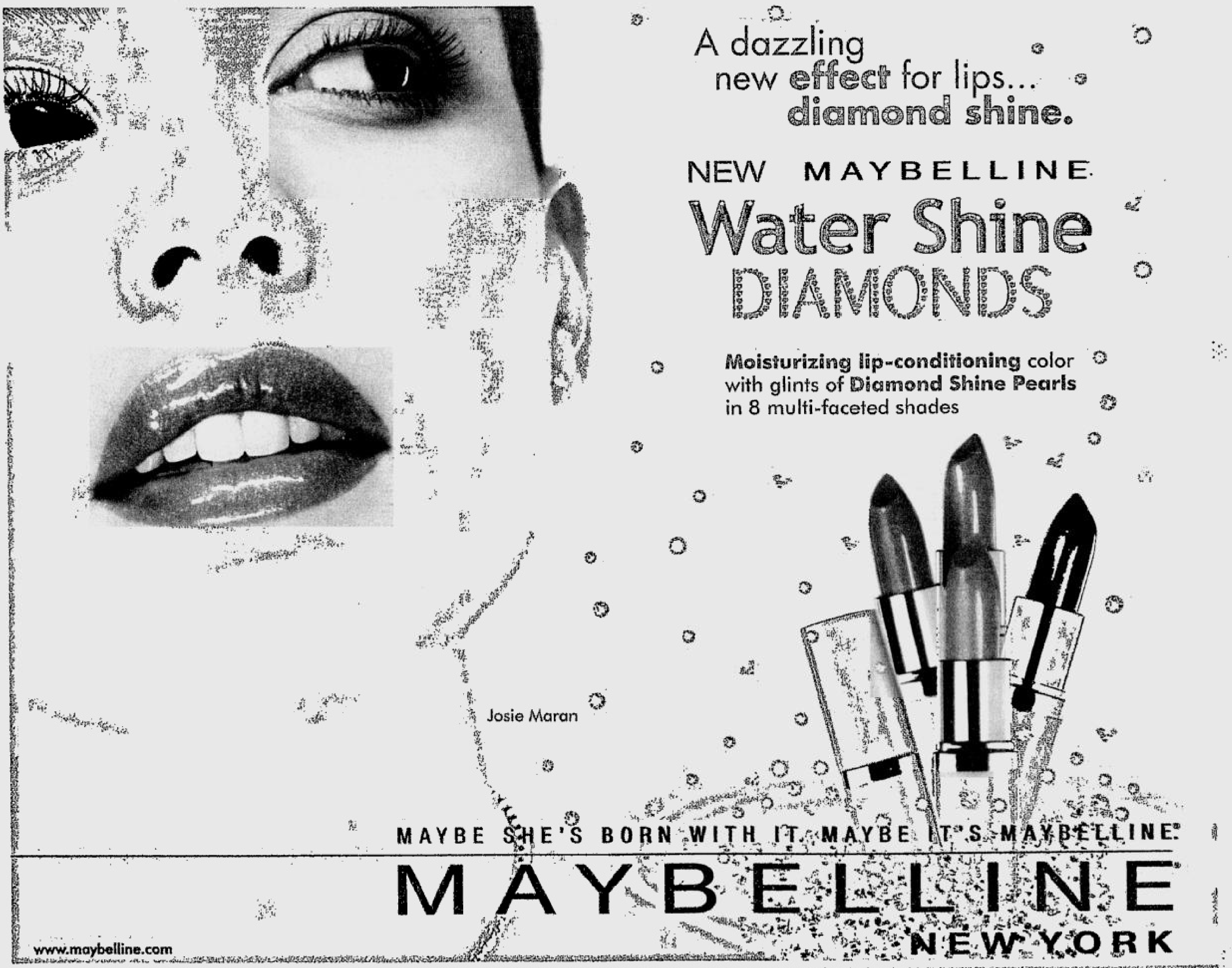

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FIFTEEN YEARS OF HEALTHCARE EXCELLENCE
SINCE 1987

celebrating 15 years of providing healthcare excellence to its members

MEDICard PHILIPPINES, INC.

MESSAGES

I SEND my sincerest greetings to MEDICard PHILIPPINES, INC. on the occasion of your 15th Year Anniversary.

I welcome the growth of Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs) for it parallels the Health Sector Reform Agenda we are implementing to improve the delivery of basic health services to our people. As one of the leading HMOs in the country today, it is heartening to note that you have made quality medical services more accessible to the greater segment of our society.

May your endeavor to continuously improve your services to meet the changing needs of your clients. Commitment to excellence and affordability is the key to attaining success in this highly competitive industry. I hope that you will continue to safeguard the health of the Filipino people.

Happy anniversary.

GMArroyo

GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

IT'S MEDICard's 15th Founding Anniversary!

We celebrate our 15th year with a list of noteworthy achievements. We have shown that we can move ahead of the rest and make our mark in the Philippine managed healthcare industry.

Thank you for having been part of our success, from our founding in 1987 to our becoming one of the largest health maintenance organizations (HMOs) in the country today.

Armed with the confidence and trust that you have afforded us, we incessantly dedicate ourselves in providing you the quality service that you have known us for. In all our efforts to achieve these, we pledge to commit ourselves to the highest standard of professionalism. We also recognize our pivotal role in contributing to the welfare and health of society. And all these realizations have heralded us up to the position as one of the renowned HMOs.

The journey that you have taken with us from 1987 has been truly fruitful and most fulfilling. On our 15th year, let us celebrate the partnership, which we have nurtured throughout the past years as we look forward to more years of serving your healthcare needs.

In behalf of our board of directors and management team, I reiterate our sincerest thanks and salutations.

Cheers to our 15 years!

NICANOR D. MONTOYA, M.D.
President
MEDICard PHILIPPINES, INC.

By Joel V. Nigos

WE commonly hear the adage that "sickness striking a loved one is both heavy on the heart and difficult on the pocket". There is another one that goes "When one gets sick, he gets more sick not because of his illness but when he learns how much he has to pay for hospital bills."

Often, it's not even the case of one of us being rushed to the hospital. We are also turned away by staggering costs of regular check-ups that should have helped us keep fit.

Sounds familiar, we may say. Sometimes, we even tell these stories to other people in jest, but later realizing that this is reality in our midst and could hit us when we least expect it. Those times when we worry more about the hospital bills than our loved ones getting well.

Luis S. Montoya, executive vice president and general manager of MEDICard PHILIPPINES INC., says that this is the concept behind the inception of MEDICard 15 years ago.

"It is affordable healthcare that gives peace of mind and convenience for all its members. Health is actually the best investment one can make to enjoy all that life has to offer," he relates.

He says that the idea is if a person could just put away a small amount everyday to pay for membership, he could afford medical services.

SALAS

"During emergencies, the member just needs to present his card. The member doesn't even have to pay a deposit. This is unlike medical insurance, pre-payment of bills for later reimbursement is not required. Thus, no cash is required at any stage. The patient only needs to worry about getting well and not paying bills," explains Montoya.

MEDICard is a health maintenance organization (HMO) that provides a comprehensive health program for its members. This includes hospital confinement benefits, outpatient, preventive healthcare and emergency care services. It also provides financial assistance and dental care.

Associated with MEDICard are over 3,000 accredited doctors, dentists and specialists, operating out of 250 hospitals and clinics nationwide. The specialists cover the full range of professions including cardiologists, urologists, endocrinologists, anesthesiologists, among others.

Montoya adds that MEDICard also goes much further than just paying hospital bills.

"It really does care for its members. Hospitalized members receive a visit from MEDICard's liaison officer. He reviews the member's plan, talks with the assigned doctors and specialists, and briefs the patient with their privileges. More than this, he will even process the necessary papers needed before time of discharge.

He further says that this allows the patient to relax and concentrate on recovery. Operating 24 hours each and every day, MEDICard provides quality health care service nationwide.

Growing numbers

This year, MEDICard celebrates its 15 years of service to its members.

It has to date enlisted 350,000 members and is expanding daily. And notwithstanding the economic woes of the past few years, its sales increased continuously over the first 10 years by over 250 percent, ensuring an annual sales of P795 million by year 2000 and almost P1 billion in revenues by end-2001. Growth is still ongoing as more companies realize the benefits of providing healthcare to their workers. Many of the country's largest employers, both local and multinational, now issue MEDICard to their workers. This ensures that sick personnel obtain early treatment for medical problems and thus lose less time at work. Productivity is therefore maintained while skills are retained. To date, over 1,500 companies have taken advantage of this scheme, attesting that in the best possible manner to the quality of the product and service.

MONTOYA

"Thousands of lives have been touched when health coverage is extended. What might have been an extremely heavy financial burden to some members have been made possible. Many physicians have also expanded their practice and many employees have been given a very decent livelihood," Montoya notes.

Aristotle P. Salas, MEDICard's treasurer and assistant to the executive vice president and general manager, for his part, says that maintaining a prestigious roster of clients have been encouraging.

"We have maintained topnotch medical providers. We continuously attract new members and new medical network. The most important is we have maintained a reputation of dependability, flexibility and stability," Salas stresses.

Setting its sights

Montoya says that they want MEDICard to be regarded as more than an HMO or a supplier of healthcare.

"If members can accept MEDICard as a partner for the longterm, we are always willing. We also want to establish a lifelong partnership with MEDICard accounts through thick and thin and to continuously improve our services so we'll be able to enlist more and more members, meet their expectations or even surpass them," he says.

He adds that they envision MEDICard to be the most respected and sought-after health maintenance organization.

"As the healthcare and lifestyle wellness provider that one could not live without, hopefully, Filipinos would place more value for their health and well-being than for their material and less essential things," he relates.

Salas, on the other hand, sets his sights on the more obvious indicators of a stable and growing company.

"Our goal is to capture at least 25 percent of the market in three years, to improve company's profitability and to develop good employees and professional salespeople," says Salas.

He adds that these can be met through increasing awareness about the benefits of HMOs by way of "Take Charge Doc" advertisements, symposia, and outreach programs, targeting accounts that are in for the long haul and offering flexible programs suited to clients' needs and budgets.

> Health is actually the best investment one can make to enjoy all that life has to offer

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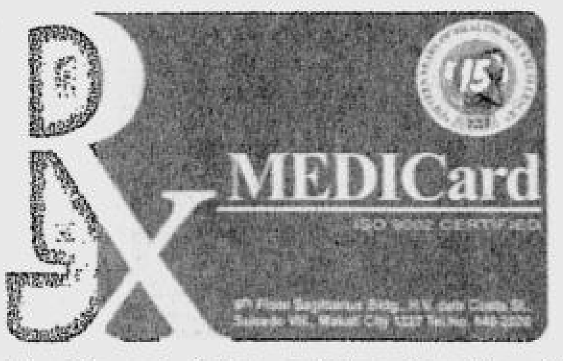
MEDICard introduces 15th year commemorative membership cards



"COOL, hip and funky," that's how MEDICard's Luis S. Montoya describes the new cards being issued to members starting May 01, in commemoration of its 15th founding anniversary.

Its color is still blue, just like the old ones but with a bigger Rx occupying its whole left side. The MEDICard name is placed in the middle towards the right side of the card. Below the name are the words ISO 9002 Certified proclaiming the international stamp of quality the company has received, and above it is the company's 15th year anniversary logo.

Aristotle P. Salas, MEDICard's treasurer and assistant to the executive vice president and general manager, explains that the bigger Rx signifies "the importance of our partnership with doctors and other medical providers."

"Rx is attributed to the medical profession. Making it bigger means that we realize the bigger role they (doctors and medical providers) play in the HMO. Rx also means prescription, making it bigger means we're the most 'prescribed' HMO," he says.

The new MEDICard IDs are being introduced not only in celebration of the 15th year of service of MEDICard to members but also to reflect the new soul of the company which is caring for partners (doctors) and renewed dynamism.

"MEDICard also hopes that the new cards would reflect the new paradigms of the company aside from it would help make the existing clients and prospective ones know what stuff MEDICard is made of," Montoya adds.

Joel V. Nigos

Rex the Chameleon, newest member of the MEDICard family

MEET the cutest and the most colorful addition to the MEDICard family!

He's cute because he's a stuffed toy and his being colorful is obvious—he has all the colors on him.

His name is Rex the Chameleon.

But why Rex?

According to MEDICard's EVP and general manager Luis S. Montoya, Rex is the most obvious name that comes to his mind. Notice Rx, which means prescription, that's where his name came from.

And why chameleon?

Montoya explains that chameleons are part of the species of lizards that are well known for their ability to change colors and adapt to their surroundings, making it practically invisible to the untrained looker.

"At MEDICard, we have likened ourselves to this ability. We pledged adaptability and flexibility as our advantages in meeting the needs of our members. Flexibility and adaptability also describes programs that the company can tailor-fit to meet clients' needs," he relates.

He adds "since our strength is flexibility—the ability to adapt—the chameleon is the creature that is best suited, the most 'simpatico.'"

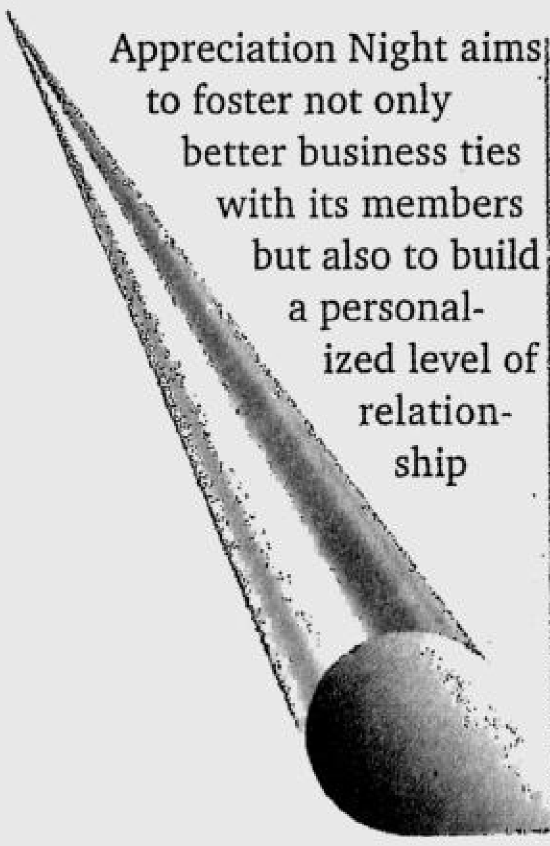
Montoya further explains that according to the book "The Persona Principle," the chameleon is the most dynamic of all personalities, demanding religious fanaticism or a sense of real cause.

"Chameleons are also team-oriented. For MEDICard, that's absolute belief on the benefits of our product and service. Aside from all these, Rex will simply symbolize comfort and reassurance that our company will always be there for all its members," he says.

For MEDICard, these can be achieved because the company is dependable.

Rex being a stuffed toy also symbolizes fun, solace, comfort, reassurance, lightening one's burden and security blanket. Indeed, Rex the Chameleon is something that symbolizes what MEDICard is, what it does and what it wants to achieve.

Joel V. Nigos



> Appreciation Night aims to foster not only better business ties with its members but also to build a personalized level of relationship

Appreciation Night 2

THE HEAT this past month was simply unbearable. That's why MEDICard PHILIPPINES, INC., in celebration of its 15th founding anniversary invited its corporate clients last May 03 to cool down and come to Appreciation Night 2, featuring the Philippine premiere of the blockbuster movie Spiderman. The film showing was held at the Premiere THX Cinema in Makati.

Appreciation Night is the client-centered program launched last March 2001 where MEDICard officers and selected employees take time out from work to meet representatives from various corporate members. Appreciation Night aims to foster not only better business ties with its members but also to build a personalized level of relationship as well. The project is also one of the ways wherein MEDICard gets a chance to thank and extend their appreciation for their client's continuous support.

The event also marked the official launching of the newest and cutest addition to MEDICard's family, Rex the Chameleon. The film showing was filled with fun as most moviegoers won prizes from a game of "Surprises on your Seats". Prizes were MEDICard's hand sanitizers, 15th anniversary commemorative T-shirts and Rex the Chameleon stuffed toys.

PREMIERE THX Cinema's Marketing and Operations Manager Ms. Liweng M. Cecilia (second from left) poses with Mr. Voltaire R. Victoria (MEDICard Marketing and Sales Manager), Ms. Korina C. Cervantes (MEDICard Customer Relations Assistant), Mr. Robert John T. Chainani (MEDICard Assistant Supervisor-Marketing and Sales) and Mr. Bernard T. Zulueta (MEDICard Orientation Specialist)

Anniversary day: Showing how MEDICard cares for members

MAKATI MEDICAL CENTER: MEDICard's Executive Vice President and General Manager, Mr. Luis S. Montoya with member Lili B. Ramirez of Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-ibig Fund)

CHINESE GENERAL HOSPITAL: (L-R) Mr. Dolan B. Hermosa (Liaison Officer), member-patient Diana Nicole Agustin (Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp.) with mom Jenelyn, Mr. Glenn Ford J. Mirasol (Revenue Management Manager), Ms. Maricel L. Torres (Direct Sales Manager) and Ms. Rosemarie B. Alipio (Claims and Reimbursements Manager)

MEDICAL CENTER MUNTINLUPA: (L-R) Mr. John M. Cordero (Toyota Motor Philippines, Inc.) with family and MEDICard's Ms. Miriam M. Villafuerte (Asst. Manager-Marketing Services) and Ms. Maria Lourdes A. Leonardo (Liaison Officer)

MEDICAL CITY GENERAL HOSPITAL: (L-R) Dr. Nicky S. Montoya (MEDICard Medical Director) with member Ms. Juanita V. De Guzman (Tele-Philippines, Inc.), Mr. Robert John T. Chainani (Asst. Supervisor-Marketing and Sales) and Ms. Rose M. Funtanilla (Marketing Coordinator)

PERPETUAL HELP MEDICAL CENTER: (L-R) MEDICard's Dr. Catherine D. Jimenez (Medical Services Manager), Mr. Mario Manas (Holiday-Inn Manila), Mr. Jose Maria Victor D. Espino (Liaison Officer) and Ms. Miriam M. Villafuerte (Asst. Manager-Marketing Services)

MEDICAL CITY GENERAL HOSPITAL: (L-R) MEDICard's Medical Director, Dr. Nicky S. Montoya with member Mr. Alexander C. Escucha (China Banking Corp.), Mr. Robert John T. Chainani (Asst. Supervisor-Marketing and Sales), Ms. Rose M. Funtanilla (Marketing Coordinator) and Mr. Joselito D. Mondragon (Liaison Officer)

CAPITOL MEDICAL CENTER: MEDICard Marketing Assistants Mr. Omar I. Catolos and Mr. Bernard T. Zulueta and Liaison Officer Mr. Alex C. Daduya with member Ms. Joey Panghulan (Banco Filipino) and her grandmother

THEY came, they saw and they gave out gifts to MEDICard members who are presently enjoying the benefits of being part of one of the country's leading health maintenance organizations (HMOs).

Led by Luis S. Montoya, MEDICard's executive vice president and general manager and Dr. Nicky S. Montoya, MEDICard's Medical Director, the gift-giving was held right on the occasion of the company's 15th year anniversary. Joining them were officers of the company from various departments and MEDICard's liaison officers.

Both kids and adults alike wore happy faces after being given Rex the Chameleon stuffed toys, the cutest and the most colorful addition to the MEDICard family, anniversary thank you cards and flowers. MEDICard members and their respective families who were there during the gift-giving also shared their happy experiences and the convenience of being members of MEDICard.

ST. LUKE'S MEDICAL CENTER: (L-R) MEDICard Liaison Officer, Ms. Evangeline C. Cua together with member-patient Mary Henria A. Licardo of Mirant Philippines and mother Maria Milagrosa, Mr. Bernard T. Zulueta (MEDICard Marketing Assistant) and Mr. Enrico C. Bunyog (MEDICard Asst. Supervisor-Marketing Services)

DR. VICTOR R. POTENCIANO MEDICAL CENTER: MEDICard Liaison Officer Mr. Dennison O. Ledda with member Lani B. Soriano of Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp.

MEDICard
ISO 9002 Certified

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, the country's most read newspaper, signed its 11th year renewal of the healthcare agreement with MEDICard for the HMO program of its employees and dependents recently at the Bayview Park Hotel. Present during the contract signing were (Sitting L-R) Mr. Jesse Francis Rebustillo (PDI Corp. HR Head), Mr. David Valdes (PDI Sr. VP-Corp. Services), Dr. Nicanor Montoya (MEDICard President) and Mr. Luis Montoya (MEDICard EVP & GM); (Standing L-R) Ms. Joy Mendiola (MEDICard Asst. Supervisor, Marketing Services), Ms. Girlie Guales (PDI Personnel Asst.), Ms. Thillie Panillio (PDI Performance Management Administrator), Ms. Rose Viray (PDI Compensation Management Head), Dr. Nicky Montoya (MEDICard Medical Director), Ms. Miriam Villafuerte (MEDICard Asst. Manager, Marketing Services) and Ms. Rachel Cucio (PDI ESDC Coordinator)

MEDICard
MOTOROLA
intelligence everywhere

MOTOROLA COMMUNICATIONS PHILIPPINES INC. signed its corporate healthcare agreement with MEDICard in a contract signing ceremony held at the New World Renaissance Hotel recently. Present during the ceremony were (Seated L-R) Dr. Nicky Montoya (MEDICard Medical Director), Luis S. Montoya (MEDICard EVP & GM), Dr. Nicanor Montoya (MEDICard President), Joju Quejada (Motorola Director) & Peter Buenaseda (Motorola Country HR Manager); (Standing L-R) Voltaire Victoria (MEDICard Marketing & Sales Manager), Pia Reyes (MEDICard Corporate Accounts Manager), Marlyn Delgado (MEDICard Account Manager), Miriam Villafuerte (MEDICard Asst. Manager-Marketing Services), Luz Barcelon (MEDICard Account Executive), Julie Lamera (Motorola Corporate Communications and Public Affairs Specialist), Armie Olalia (Motorola HR Asst.), Martin Aurellano (Motorola Accounting Shared Services Manager) & Francis Swinton (Motorola Purchasing & General Services Manager)

MEDICard reaches out to kids

By Joel V. Nigos

"LOOK, the elephant's so huge I wonder what will happen if he steps on us," asked one kid in jest while touring the Manila Zoological and Botanical Garden.

"Would you know where they all come from?" queried 'another while being amazed by the various bird species.

Indeed, the peacock was fascinating when it spread its feathers. The monkeys were, as always, playful while the snakes and the crocodiles were spine tingling.

These were just some of the things that happened inside the Manila Zoo during MEDICard Philippines' Outreach Program last May 9, where 30 kids from the Kaibigan Ermita Outreach Foundation were treated to a trip.

Sixteen members of MEDICard's management and executive committees led by its executive vice president and general manager Luis S. Montoya joined the kids to have fun and to relish the moment.

The outreach project was held in celebration of the company's 15th founding anniversary and as a way of sharing the success it reaped through the years to our less fortunate brothers and sisters.

After the visit to the Manila Zoo and Kinder Zoo, the kids were treated to a hearty lunch at a popular fast-food chain where they were also given Rex the Chameleon stuffed toys and other gifts. They also competed in exciting games for wonderful prizes and some presented their talents, too.

Founded in 1986, Kaibigan Ermita Outreach Foundation is an independent, non-profit, non-governmental organization devoted to the care and well being of street children and urban poor in different districts of Manila. It is fully registered with the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

Its range of services includes, support of the education of approximately 400 children from the elementary grades through college, non-formal education programs and vocational training, preventive and curative medical attention to all the children under its care, cultural and sporting activities and income-generating programs.

Kaibigan's principal office and headquarters also serve as a learning center and as residence for distressed children where many find food and shelter from the hardship of the streets.

The foundation's mission is to ensure that the children it serves are provided with basic needs, protection and opportunities for education and personal development, nurtured through caring, love, fellowship and support.

THE CHILDREN, while sporting their Rex the Chameleon T-shirts, pose with MEDICard's management and executive committee together with selected Marketing and Sales employees headed by executive vice president and general manager, Mr. Luis S. Montoya

THE CHILDREN of the Kaibigan Ermita Outreach Foundation pose with Mr. Voltaire R. Victoria (MEDICard Marketing and Sales Manager) and Ms. Miriam M. Villafuerte (MEDICard Assistant Manager, Marketing Services) together with the ostrich at the Kinder Zoo

THE KIDS of the Kaibigan Ermita Foundation display their Rex the Chameleon stuffed toys while taking another pose

MEDICard's executive vice president and general manager, Mr. Luis S. Montoya gives out Rex the Chameleon stuffed toys to the children after a hearty lunch at a famous fast food chain

PHOTOS BY ROGER MARGALLO

Take Charge Doc!

Nicky S. Montoya, M.D.

To our valued partners—medical service providers and members,

This is a special issue celebrating a memorable occasion for all of us. MEDICard is now celebrating 15 years of innovative and unsurpassed HMO service. I, in behalf of MEDICard, would like to thank you for this thriving and mutually beneficial relationship.

There is a need to improve healthcare delivery in our country. There are lots of Filipinos getting sick, but because of the increasing healthcare costs, they can not seek quality medical services. We at MEDICard would like to believe that the work we do together helps to make it more accessible to them.

My work and this column need to make sure that our partnership is smooth with good lines of communication. In the few months we have been together through this column, we have sought to reach out to you and to hear your concerns. We hope that through this venue, we can continue to improve and innovate. We invite you to write us.

Nicky S. Montoya, M.D.
Medical Director

Meet your MEDICard Team

The Assistant Head of the Pulmonary and Critical Care Department and Head of the Pulmonary Laboratory of the Philippine Heart Center for Asia is MEDICard accredited specialist, **Dr. Teresita A. De Castro.** Dr. De Castro has been in the practice of her profession since 1979. She finished Medicine at the University of Santo Tomas. Doc Teresita specializes in Internal Medicine and subspecializes in Pulmonology. She is also currently the Head of the Pulmonary Department of the Manila Central University Hospital and is an associate professor of the MCU-College of Medicine. You may visit her for your consultation needs at Room 416 of the Philippine Heart Center for Asia, East Avenue, Q.C., from Mondays to Saturdays, 8 AM to 12 noon.

Dr. Maria Felina Rosario P. Cruz is MEDICard's accredited specialist based in Makati Medical Center. Dr. Cruz is a Medicine graduate from UP-Philippine General Hospital. She took her residency training for her specialization in General Surgery also at the Philippine General Hospital. Doc Maria has been in the practice of her profession for more than 5 years now, and has been a MEDICard medical service provider for almost 3 years. She is a Fellow to the Philippine College of Surgeons and the Philippine Society of General Surgeons, and is a valued member of the Philippine Society for the Surgery of Trauma. You may visit Dr. Cruz for your consultations at Room 330 of Makati Medical Center, every Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 2 to 5 in the afternoon.

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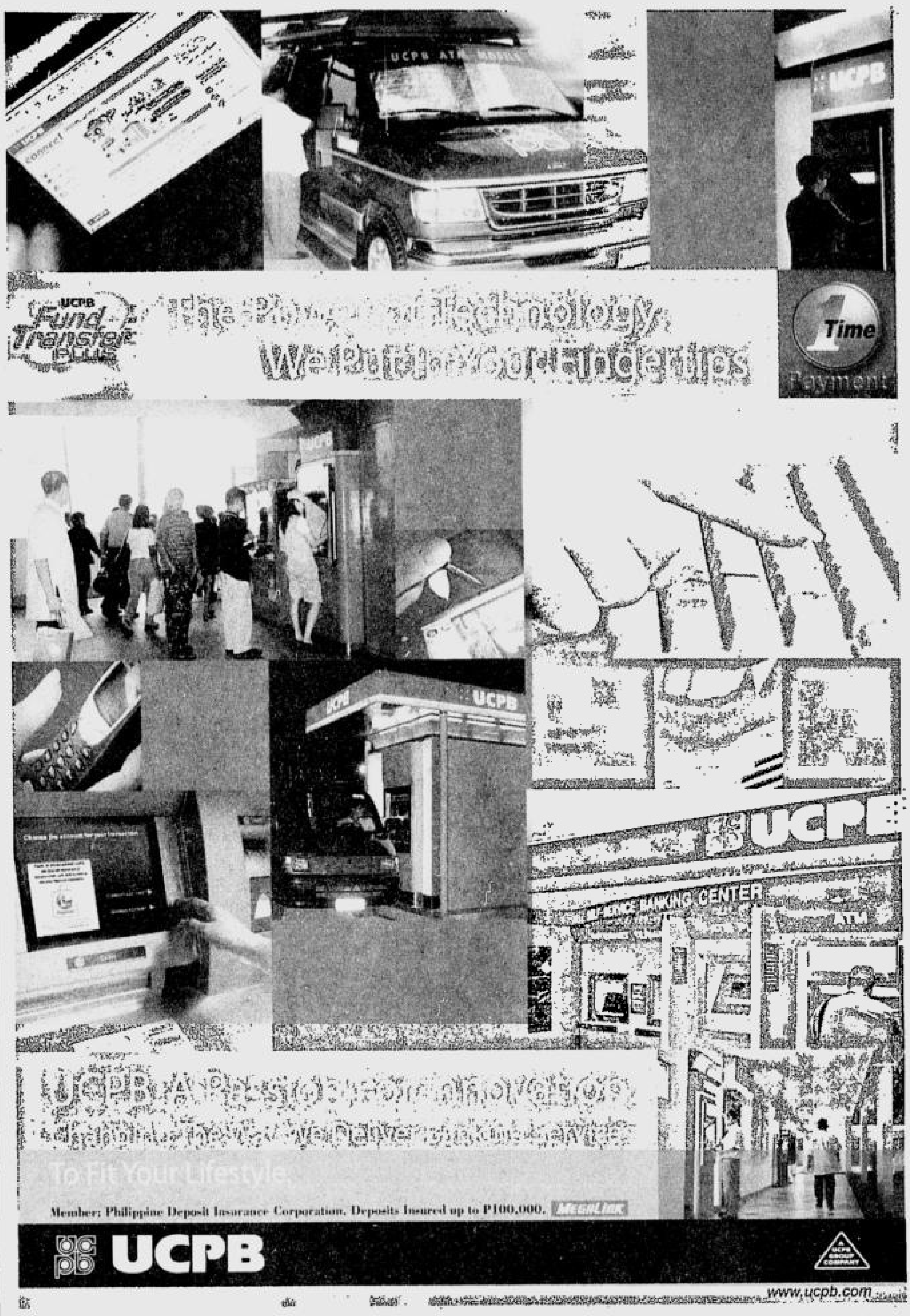

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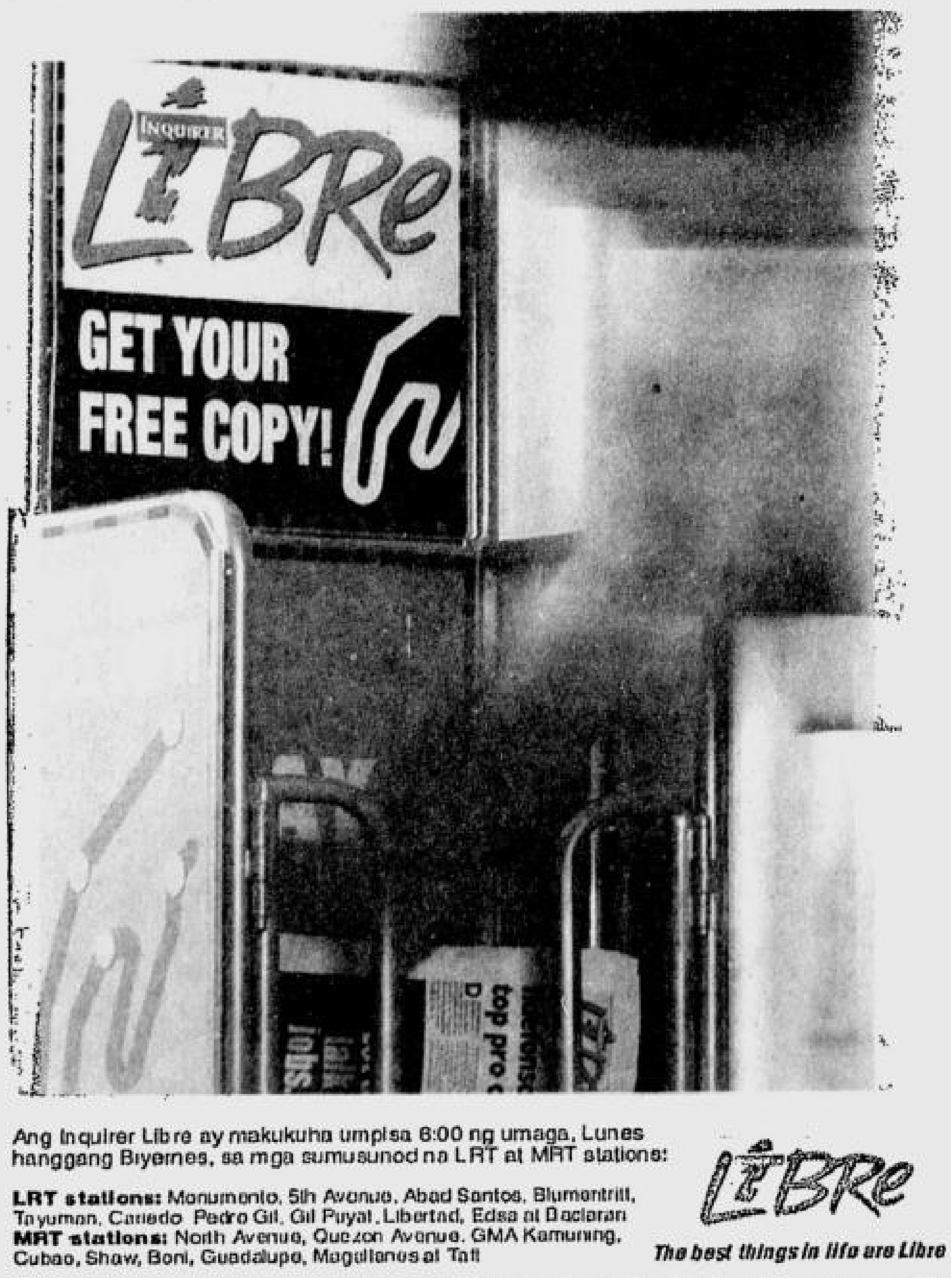

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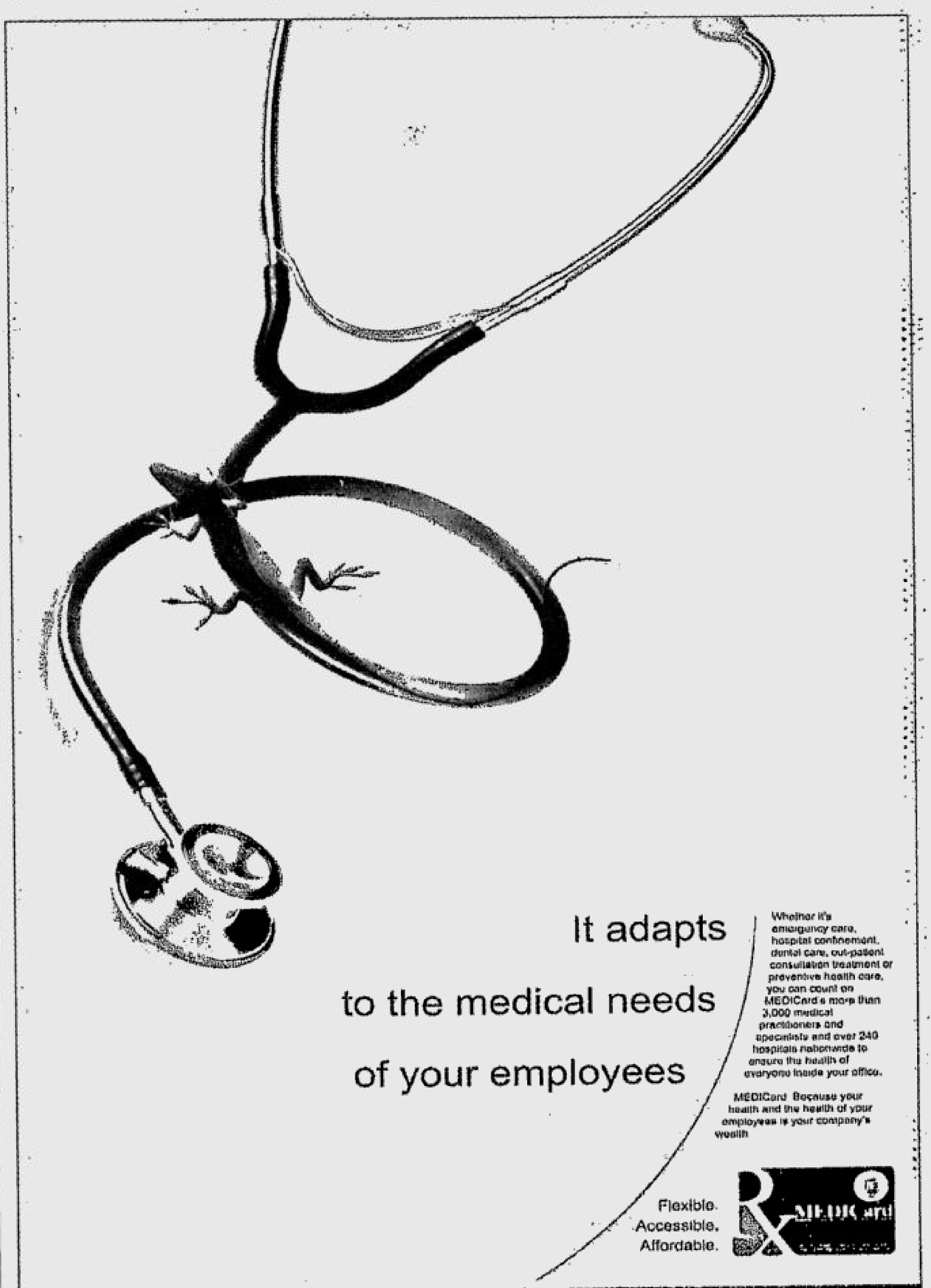

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LTO exec sentenced to 6 centuries in jail for graft

STORY ON PAGE A2

No youth registered in 2 Cotabato villages

By Edwin O. Fernandez
PDI Mindanao Bureau

COTABATO CITY—Two villages here appeared to have lost their youth as no one came to register for the July 15 Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) election the past two days.

Elsewhere in the country, turnout

NO YOUTH/A19

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'Spurious signal' trips Luzon power lines

By Ronnel W. Domingo

HALF of the country's population sweated through a "system blackout" yesterday—the fourth in the last 12 months and the second this year. A tripped transmission line cut power to some 40 million people on the same day the Senate and House energy com-

SPURIOUS/A18

'Blackout is blackmail'

Congress blows fuse, wants Meralco, Napocor probed

LUZON-WIDE, five-hour blackout happened when the 230-kilovolt Biñan-Sta. Rosa transmission line tripped. Workmen fix overhead electric cables along the South Superhighway.

REUTERS

By Cynthia Balana and Juliet Javellana

LEGISLATORS crossed party lines to denounce the National Power Corp. for yesterday's "crippling power outage." Administration Sen. Renato Cayetano and opposition Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta said the Luzon-wide blackout was tantamount to blackmail.

In the House, Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez and Ilocos Sur Rep. Salacnib Baterina filed a resolution seeking an investigation of Napocor and the Manila Electric Co. for the "sudden and unannounced brownout" which affected some 40 million people.

Legislators in both chambers said they suspected the massive power outage was related to the ongoing debate on the controversial purchased power adjustment fee.

Sen. John Osmeña said the blackout was a form of psywar (psychological warfare) by Napocor in order to justify high electricity rates.

Senate President Pro Tempore Manuel Villar said it could be a "cheap gimmick" of Napocor's, while Oreta said the Napocor could have stage-managed the blackout as part of a sinister ploy to blackmail consumers.

"Could it really be an eerie coincidence that Metro Manila and the rest of Luzon were hit anew with a crippling power outage just days after the Napocor had obviously tried to stem the mounting opposition to the ever-rising PPA surcharge by raising the bogey of daylong blackouts that hit the country about a decade ago?" Oreta asked.

She noted that Napocor had earlier warned the public that the abrupt termination of its power-supply contracts with independent power producers (IPPs) could lead to daylong power outages similar to those that hit the country in the early 1990s.

BLACKOUT/A6

17 senators back 3-year suspension of PPA charge

By Juliet L. Javellana and Cynthia D. Balana

TO EASE the burden of high power rates, the Senate and House of Representatives are trying to outdo each other in amending the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira) of 2001.

Seventeen senators have signed a consolidated bill seeking a three-year moratorium on purchased power adjustment (PPA) charges being collected from households.

At the House of Representatives, the committee on energy is fast-tracking the passage of a bill seeking to exempt users of not more than 70 kilowatt-hours a month, drawing accusations of railroading.

Fifteen representatives voted yesterday to approve a measure amending Epira, or Republic Act No. 9136, at the energy committee level, but 10 members walked out of the deliberations.

"This is an illegal proceeding!" shouted Rep. Eduardo Veloso (Leyte). Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran banged the table and said "This is railroading!"

Akbayan Rep. Etta Rosales and opposition Representatives Rolex Suplico (Iloilo) and Constantino Jaraula (Cagayan de Oro) led 10 House members in a walkout as committee

17 SENATORS/A18

Power-less in a nation of sweatshops

By Volt Contreras, Christian V. Esguerra and Jerome Aning

TALL *halo-halo* glasses all in a row, containing the usual candied fruits and beans but bereft of the crown of crushed ice, were an apt symbol of how yesterday's powerless hours went.

This was what met the eye at the canteen of the Sandiganbayan and other government agencies forced to operate for only half a day as the Luzon-wide blackout exacerbated the summer heat.

The outage inflicted maximum damage on the commercial life of the nation, halting business at the Philippine Stock Exchange and forcing bourse officials to call off afternoon trading. It also caused work stoppages in most business establishments and government offices, including the Supreme Court and the Presidential Commission on Good Government, which literally turned into sweatshops because of idled air-conditioning systems.

In Manila, some office buildings switched on noisy backup power generators while people in buildings without such generators went outdoors to try to escape the heat.

The situation was no better in Metro Manila households, where appliances sputtered to a stop, worries were aired about food spoiling in refrigerators, and those equipped with cable TV missed much of the second half of an important NBA semi-

POWER-LESS/A18

MALACAÑANG PHOTO

IN THE LAND OF THE RISING SUN: Japanese PM Junichiro Koizumi meets on Tuesday with President Macapagal who's on a five-day working visit to Tokyo. *(Story on Page A2)*

Bert Romulo back to work in 6 weeks after double bypass

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE "LITTLE President" is on leave after undergoing a double bypass Sunday morning.

A statement issued yesterday by the office of Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo said he would be "fit to resume full duties within four to six weeks." It quoted Dr. Jorge Garcia of the Asian Medical Center who headed the operating team.

Romulo went on leave Monday, the same day President Macapagal-Arroyo left for a five-day visit to Japan.

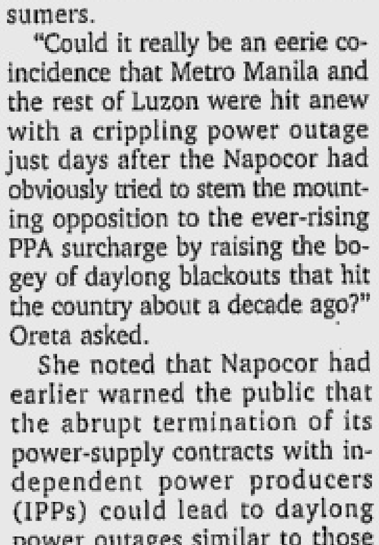
Avelino Cruz Jr., the President's legal counsel, has taken over as acting executive secretary and is also serving as officer in charge while she is abroad.

Acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable Jr. said in a phone interview from Tokyo that Ms Macapagal had already conveyed her wishes for Romulo's early recovery.

"The President has not mentioned any movement (regarding) the position of executive secretary at this point," Afable said when asked if Romulo would be leaving Malacañang soon.

Romulo replaced Renato de Villa, Ms Macapagal's first executive secretary, on May 8

BERT/A6



THIS IS THE NAKED TRUTH

Enron guys lose shirts, pants again

HOUSTON—They've already lost their shirts—and pants as well—to Enron Corp.

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Five former male employees of Enron went before Playgirl's cameras on Sunday for a daylong photo shoot for an issue due in stores in October.

ENRON/A19

DPWH: Taguig feud shows why pork has to go

By Armand N. Nocum

THE FEUD over infrastructure projects between Rep. Alan Cayetano and Taguig Mayor Sigfrido Tinga is a "classic" argument for the abolition of pork barrel, according to two public works officials.

The public works officials said the congressman and the mayor were destroying or blocking the implementation of each other's infrastructure projects to gain political leverage in Taguig, a town in Metro Manila.

"That's what happens when lawmakers meddle in construction work, instead of crafting bills," said a senior official of the Department of Public Works and Highways, who is against efforts by members of Congress to control the DPWH's infrastructure budget.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson earlier cited corruption as the reason behind his proposal to scrap pork barrel, money from the national budget that finances projects identified by legislators.

Lacson said that pork barrel had become a source of corruption for legislators. Members of the House of Representatives are opposing Lacson's proposal.

Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr. said Lacson's proposal was aimed at gaining "pogi points" for 2004. Lacson had said he might run for President in 2004.

The DPWH official showed the INQUIRER a May 2 letter from Tinga to Public Works Secretary Simeon Datumanong in which the mayor accused Cayetano of

DPWH/A6

Second FRONT PAGE

MALAKAS NA PAGSASAMAHAN YAN!

LTO exec gets 672 years for graft

By Volt Contreras

SIX centuries and seventy-two years.

On paper, that's the maximum prison term to be served by a former regional director of the Land Transportation Office recently found guilty by the Sandiganbayan of 56 counts of graft.

The LTO official was charged for having repeatedly "borrowed" vehicles from an automotive assembly and dealership firm, which regularly seeks permits from the LTO.

Timoteo Garcia, then chief of LTO's Cagayan de Oro office, borrowed the vehicles for his personal use 56 times from January 1993 to November 1994, according to court records.

In its May 6 decision, the anti-graft court sided with the prosecution and slapped Garcia with a prison term of six to 12 years for each count.

That would make Garcia's sentence a total of between 336 and 672 years.

'Receiving benefits'

Under the law, however, a prisoner reaching the age of 70 is automatically released on humanitarian grounds, as he or she is no longer considered a threat to society.

The court's First Division found Garcia liable for "receiving benefits" from Oro Asian Automotive Corp. based in Cagayan de Oro City, whose business operations constantly require LTO's approval for every vehicle produced or road-tested.

Associate Justice Gregory Ong, who penned the decision, invoked Sec. 3 Par. B of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act.

The provision penalizes a public official for "directly or indirectly requesting or receiving any gifts, present, percentage or benefit" from a party whose transactions with the government pass through that public official.

"Simply put," Ong wrote, "the benefit was given to accused Garcia in connection with the applications then pending with LTO-Cagayan de Oro district office, or in consideration of accused Garcia's favorable action thereon."

Gloria seeks RP-Japan economic partnership pact

By Elena R. Torrijos

TOKYO (via PLDT)—President Macapagal-Arroyo is pushing for a Japan-Philippines economic partnership agreement that will allow the two countries to benefit from each other's economic strengths.

Speaking before the Foreign Correspondents Club of Japan at lunch, the President, who met in the morning with Japan Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, noted that Japan was interested in an economic partnership agreement with member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, which includes the Philippines.

The Japanese government earlier this year signed an economic partnership agreement with Singapore, which covered the promotion of trade between the two countries, as well as technology transfer and training. Other Asean countries have expressed a desire to follow suit.

Also yesterday morning, in her keynote speech before the 8th International Conference on "The Future of Asia," organized by Nihon Keizai Shimbun Inc., the President noted that EPAs elsewhere in Asean would enable Japan to "amplify its competitive advantage in information and communication technology, as well as bio-technology and environmental technology."

In a briefing yesterday afternoon, Acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable Jr. said that the President's meeting with Koizumi, which lasted for half an hour, was "warm, cordial and relaxed." It was then, Afable said, that the President proposed a Japan-Philippines EPA.

Afable said that Koizumi reacted favorably and promised to support the proposal.

In her "Future of Asia" speech, Ms Macapagal also proposed a regional cooperation scheme that would serve as "interlocking linkages" within the Asean in such areas as finance, energy, environment, peace and security.

For instance, she said, "In the future, we (in East Asia) can further explore the feasibility of a common basket of currencies." This could be in place within a decade, she added, and could help turn East Asia into the economic powerhouse of the 21st century.

In the energy field, the President urged Asian countries to cooperate, stressing that the time was ripe. Recent events have shown, she said, that continued growths of economies depended on a stable supply of energy.

"The region can explore cooperation in common stockpiles of oil, environmental quality control in oil products, inter-connecting electricity systems, and utilization of natural gas," the President said.

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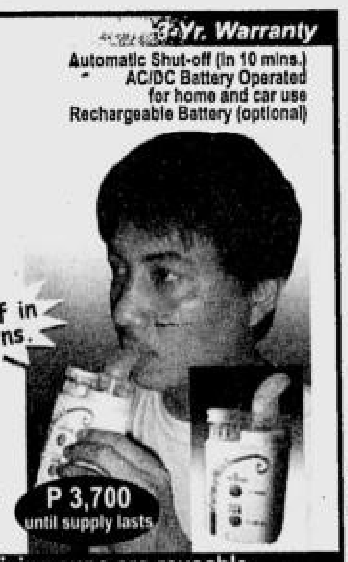
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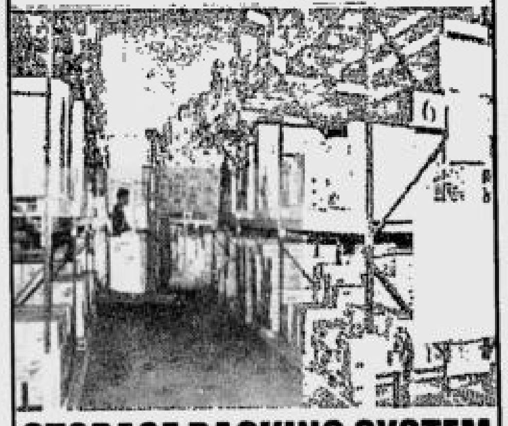
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Palace: Estradas getting all medical attention

MALACAÑANG yesterday took exception to ousted President Joseph Estrada's warning that he will go after his jailers if his son, former San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada, seriously falls ill while in detention.

Acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable Jr. said the Estradas get full medical attention while detained.

"As long as the courts allow it or we're ordered by the courts, all their medical needs are being taken care of," he said.

"All the competent medical attention are available to them. The government does not withhold that from them," he said in a phone interview from Tokyo, Japan, where President Macapagal-Arroyo is making an official visit.

Estrada made the warning after Jinggoy was rushed to the Makati Medical Center due to pneumonia.

"If something happens to him... *magtatabla-tabla na kami*," he said without naming who he referred to.

In street lingo, "*tabla-tabla*" loosely means all bets are off, making everything about the perceived enemy "fair game."

"I also don't know what he meant," Afable said.

"But I would like to stress that the government is extending all the possible forms of humane treatment to President Estrada and his son," he added.

If Estrada has any complaints about the medical attention they get, he should address it to the Sandiganbayan, he said.

"The decision is not with Malacañang," Afable said.

The Estradas are undergoing trial for plunder.

The Sandiganbayan have yet to rule on the former president's plea to go abroad to undergo knee surgery.

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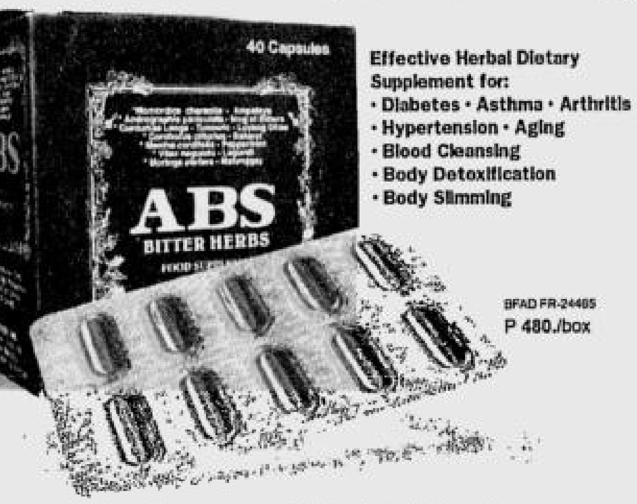

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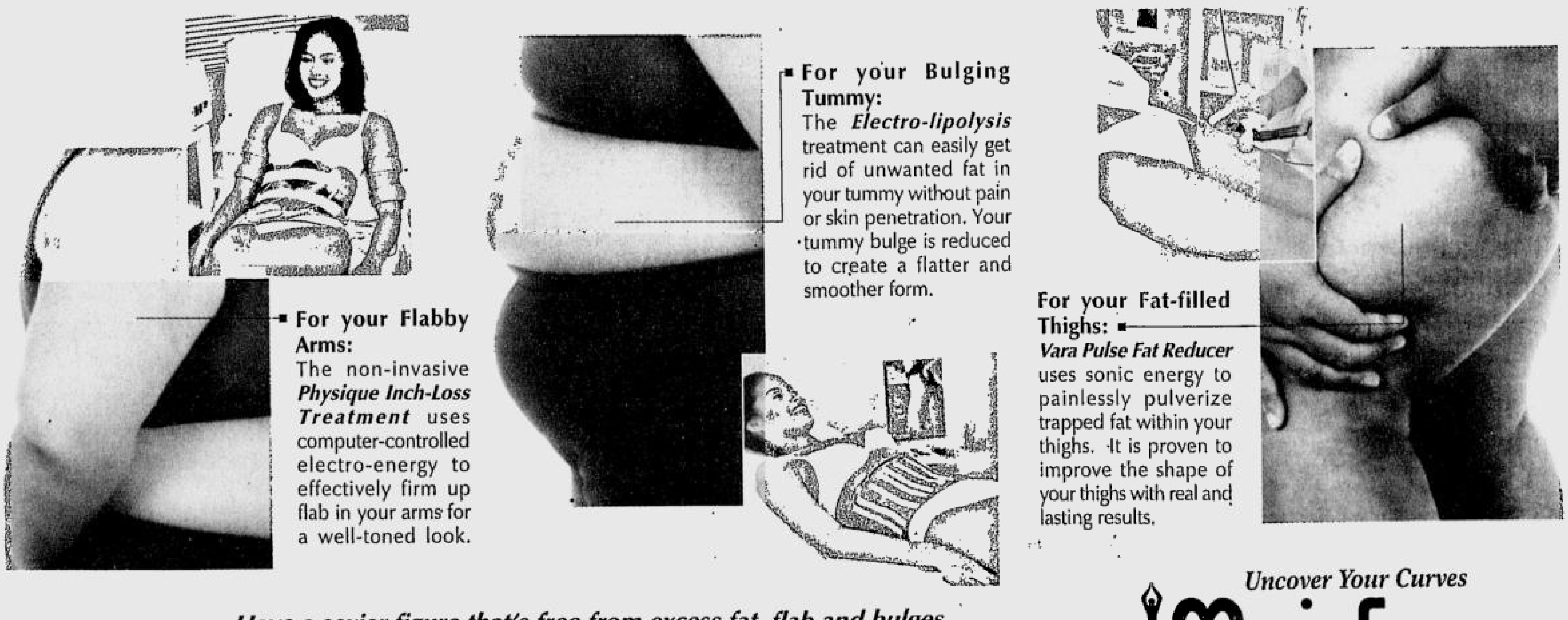

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FBI report on Lacson accounts due in a month

By Norman Bordadora

THE FEDERAL Bureau of Investigation has wrapped up its own investigation into the alleged money laundering activities of Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson and will transmit a report to the Philippine government within a month.

Lacson is alleged to have stashed some $500 million in US banks for money laundering purposes. The money, according to military intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus came from drug trafficking, kidnap for ransom and illegal gambling activities, when he was chief of the Philippine National Police.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said the National Bureau of Investigation has received word from its counterpart in the US that a report on Lacson's alleged bank accounts is forthcoming in three weeks.

"I was told by NBI director Reynaldo Wycoco that the FBI would be ready to provide the government with a copy of its investigation report into the alleged bank accounts of Senator Lacson," Perez told reporters yesterday.

The justice department has asked the US government to furnish Philippine authorities with the FBI's findings regarding Lacson's alleged bank accounts and alleged money laundering activities in the US.

The DOJ made use of the country's Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty with the US to ask the US Attorney General to give local investigators with a more detailed version of the FBI reports on Lacson's alleged bank accounts.

During a Senate inquiry in September last year, the government said that they were expecting the detailed report involving several millions of dollars stashed in alleged Lacson accounts in the US.

The Sept. 11 tragedy, however, delayed the FBI's investigation.

Already presented in the Senate inquiry were alleged bank accounts in the name of Lacson's wife, Alice. These bank accounts were supposedly in a couple of branches of the Bank of America in California.

Perez, however, said that there was no detailed report of the amounts of cash in some of the accounts, prompting the DOJ to ask the US government, through the MLAT, for a more detailed accounting of Lacson's alleged bank deposits.

LACSON

LandBank president freed, but issue lingers

By Jerome Aning

DOZENS of Land Bank of the Philippines employees cheered as their president, Margarito Teves, was released by the Manila police 10 hours after his arrest yesterday in connection with a land case in Nueva Ecija.

The 58-year-old former Negros Oriental congressman walked out of the Western Police District Headquarters in Ermita at about 10:30 p.m. LBP employees had gathered and waited inside the WPD compound.

Teves was ordered arrested by the Department of Agrarian Reform Adjudication Board (Darab) in Region 3 for contempt, for the government bank's alleged failure to pay P75 million for 54 hectares of riceland in Cabanatuan City.

Teves appealed the decision to the central Darab in Quezon City, which issued the release order. Teves posted the recommended P20,000 bail using an LBP manager's check.

Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza, who chairs central Darab, personally delivered the release order to WPD. He announced that he had ordered the investigation of Provincial Adjudicator Napoleon Baguilat, who signed Teves' arrest.

The central board's officer-in-charge, lawyer Fortunato Pagdanganan, said yesterday's incident should prod the DAR to review it valuation principle. Darab Region 3 and the LandBank, both government agencies involved in the agrarian reform program, had clearly used contradicting valuation formulas.

In an interview with the INQUIRER, Pagdanganan pointed out that this was not the only just compensation claims case being faced by LandBank to landowners. There are 339, he said.

In a press statement, the Cabanatuan landowners denounced the bank president's release.

One of the complainants, former Court of Appeals Justice Fernando A. Santiago, said that under the Darab rules of procedure, the decision of the Darab in Cabanatuan was not appealable.

The land was to be turned over to the small farmers under the CARP. Teves said the amount being sought by the landowners would be disadvantageous to the farmers, since the entire property was worth only about P3 million.

The landowners said Teves' calculation was based on a formula prescribed by a decree of President Ferdinand Marcos, which has been superceded by another formula under President Corazon Aquino.

An organization of small farmers have rallied behind Teves, accusing Darab Region 3 of corruption.

Members of the Pambansang Kilusan ng mga Samahang Magsasaka said the compensation being demanded by the landowners was beyond farmers' capacity to pay."

Pakisama national president Ananian Loza said, "The arrest of Mr. Teves shows the absurdity of the justice system."

But even Justice Secretary Hernando Perez yesterday said he found Teves' arrest unusual, and may even be unconstitutional.

In a news briefing, Perez cited Section 20 of the Constitution's Bill of Rights, which says that no person shall be imprisoned for non-payment of financial obligations.

Kidnap 'victim' a runaway

By Martin P. Marfil

THE PHILIPPINE National Police's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, the unit responsible for the still-unsolved Nida Blanca case yesterday called a press conference and presented to media a 16-year-old Briton believed to have been kidnapped.

It turned out, however, that the victim, a resident of Makati, had run away from home, alleging that he had been physically abused on several instances by his stepparents.

According to radio reports, the police was informed of the disappearance of the youth about two weeks ago and that it was feared that he had been kidnapped.

A search was launched and police discovered the boy somewhere in Nueva Ecija.

The youth is now under the custody of the CIDG.

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SEMINAR PROGRAM

24 May 2002, Friday

SESSION I 1:00 – 2:00	(Room A) The Philippine Swine Industry Speaker: Ms. Avelina Samiano Bureau of Animal Industry
1:30 - 3:30	(Room B) Virbac Phils. Technical Symposium on Streptococcus Suis Speaker: Marcelo Gottschalk, DVM, Ph.D. Professor (Microbiology & Immunology Department) University of Montreal Quebec, Canada Speaker: Guy-Pierre Martineau DVM Professor (Swine Pathology Unit) National College of Veterinary Medicine, Toulouse, France
2:00 – 3:00	Issues & Concerns Presentors: Mr. Joel F. Ramos NFHFI Vice Chairman - Luzon Mr. Raynaldo J. Macaraig NFHFI Vice Chairman - Visayas Mr. James D. Chua NFHFI Vice Chairman - Mindanao
3:00 – 3:15	Open Forum
SESSION II 3:15 – 4:00	(Room A) Pork Production in the Philippines Speaker: Dr. Elizabeth Callanta Head, Meat Science Tech Div. I National Meat Inspection Commission
4:00 - 4:45	"Improving Profits with Porcine Somatotropin" Speaker: Dr David Creswell Technical Editor, Asian Pork Magazine
4:45 - 5:30	Vitamin Supplementation in Swine Speaker: Dr. Benito Oliveros Regional Technical Manager Animal Nutrition Roche Vitamins Philippines, Inc.
5:30 - 6:15	Implementation of Porcine Solubles in Swine Raising (Benefits of Peptide Nutrition in Piglets) Speaker: Dr. Peter K.S. Chu, Ph.D. Mr. Nestor Tangangco Cledacor Enterprises

25 May 2002, Saturday

10:00 – 11:00	(Room A) The Key Role of Nutrition in the Productive Life of Breeder Pigs Speaker: Mr Glen L. Ibañez Technical Manager Sarimanok Feeds, Inc.
SESSION III 11:00 – 12:00	Hog Cholera Speaker: Dr. Roshidah Ismail Operations Manager Malaysian Vaccine and Pharmaceuticals/ Robichem Laboratories
1:00 – 2:00	FMD Speaker: Dr. Carolyn Canda-Benigno Head / Task Force FMD Bureau of Animal Industry
2:00 – 3:00	Biosecurity Assurance Systems Bayer Philippines, Inc.
SESSION IV 3:30 – 4:15	(Room A) Audio-Visual Presentation: Environment Friendly Approach to Modern Pig Production Presentor: Dr. Renato Policarpio Foremost Farms, Inc.
4:15 – 5:00	Presentation of Resolutions Presentor: Atty. Laureano Abesamis Corporate Secretary and Legal Counsel - NFHFI
5:00 – 5:45	Government Support Programs & Policies Department of Agriculture

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SPECIAL EVENTS

24 May 2002, Friday

AM11:00 - 12:00NN	Lechon Fashion Parade
PM1:30 - 5:00	Cooking Demonstration of Corned Pork, Pork Ham and Sausage (fresh native and Cantonese), Bacon, Tocino and Embotido - Technology and Livelihood Resource Center (TLRC) and Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI)

25 May 2002, Saturday

AM10:30 - 12:00NN	Nutritional Value of Pork - National Nutrition Council (NNC)
PM1:30 - 5:30	Pork Madness!! Cooking Showdown of Filipino and International Pork dishes MAMA ROSA, GOTO KING, BARRIO FIESTA and DADS

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PDInquirer

2 senators seek probe of tuition hike

By Cynthia D. Balana

TWO senators yesterday sought a Senate inquiry into the rising tuition and other miscellaneous fees being charged by private and public schools nationwide.

Senate President Pro Tempore Manuel Villar and Sen. Noli de Castro filed two separate resolutions seeking an immediate investigation of the unabated rise in tuition and the imposition of other fees as a precondition for acceptance of students.

Villar said there was a need to bring down the cost of quality education in order to attract more students to study.

"The cost of obtaining a quality education has risen sharply every year, making it more and more elusive for the ordinary Filipino youth," Villar said in a press conference.

He said that the Senate investigation would determine if indeed the yearly tuition increases are warranted, and if they also benefit the teachers and the educational system as a whole.

It will also look into the propriety of miscellaneous fees, which in some cases come close to—or even surpass the cost of actual tuition.

Villar pointed out that the Committee on Higher Education does not even require schools to seek approval in raising miscellaneous fees, resulting in the lack of transparency in the real cost of education in the country.

"As it is, the rising cost of tuition coupled with these miscellaneous fees has made it difficult for families to send their children to school," Villar said.

For his part, De Castro said that it was highly irregular for public elementary and secondary schools to require students to give donations for school use or sell tickets as a prerequisite for entry.

In Senate Bill 2118, De Castro said that the government must put a stop to the fund-raising activities of schools in order to upgrade school equipment and facilities.

He said that teachers should likewise be prohibited from strutting their wares to students who usually have no choice but to buy them.

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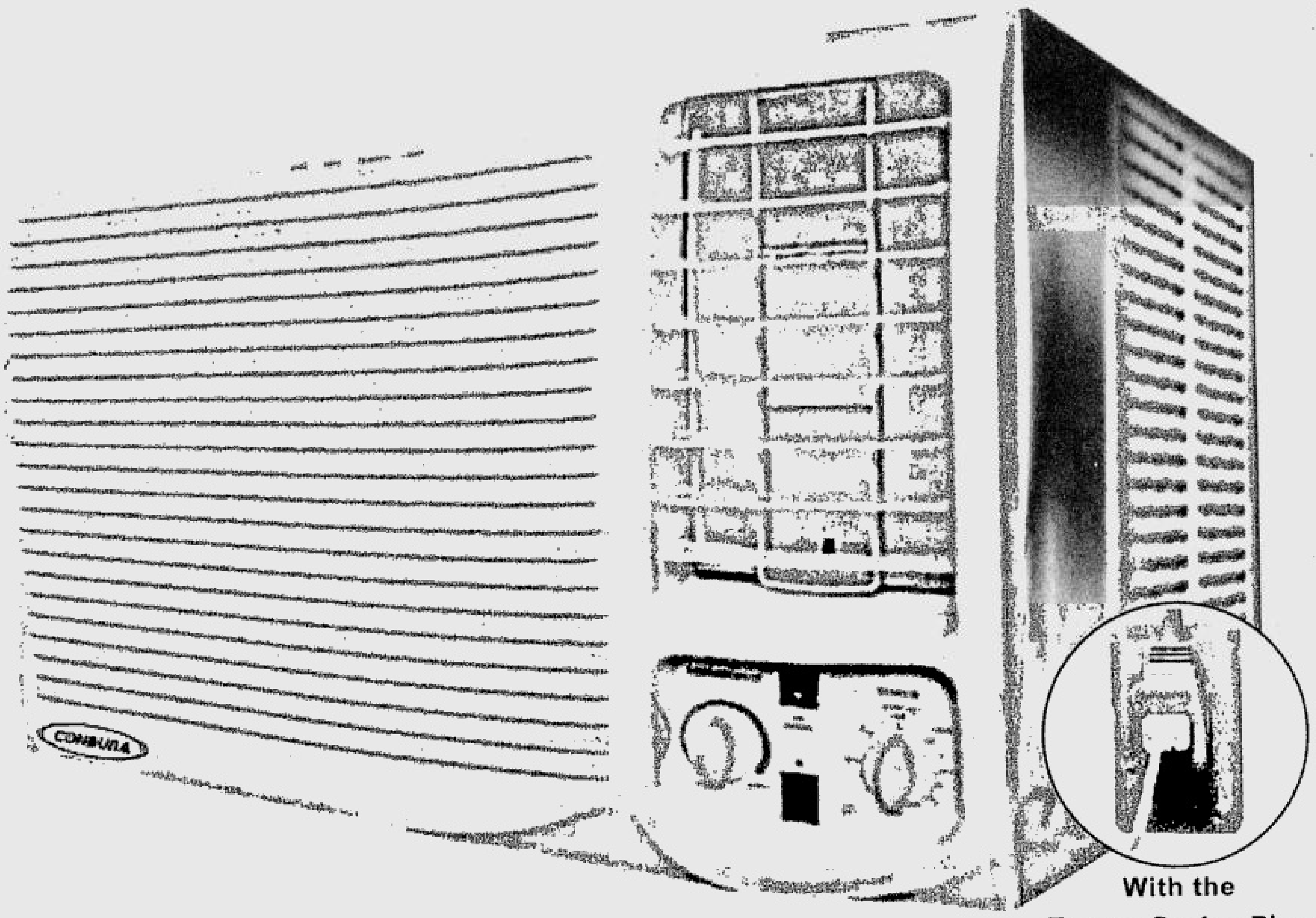

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‘Blackout is blackmail’

From page A1

Cayetano said that Napocor and the Department of Energy must fully explain the cause of the blackout to the public.

Contempt of Congress

Gonzales and Baterina said the "crippling brownout … indicates contempt of Congress, the Executive and the people in the light of demands against an increase in power rates and the removal of the PPA."

"Unless both Napocor and Meralco can successfully explain the sudden and unannounced brownout, it may be assumed that both Napocor and Meralco are trying to signal to the nation that they hold the fuse and the people will be at their mercy," the two leaders claimed in House Resolution No. 583 filed yesterday.

"The crippling brownout appears to illustrate the threat stated by Napocor of the imminence of brownouts with the removal of the PPA charge," they said.

The outage resulted in the cancellation of all committee hearings in the House yesterday afternoon, except that of the House energy committee. The House is also reviewing the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001, while a Cabinet-level inter-agency committee is reviewing the controversial IPP contracts.

Bayan Muna party list Rep. Crispin Beltran and leaders of militant groups said in a press briefing at the House that the brownout amounted to economic sabotage by Napocor and Meralco.

"We heard that this is a Luzon-wide brownout. Our suspicion is that this is part of the economic sabotage because the people are fighting for the scrapping of the PPA," Beltran said.

Anthony Cruz, convenor of the People Opposed to Warrantless Electricity Rates (Power), said the brownout was meant to "terrorize the people to stop the protests against the PPA." "I don't think the protests will stop," Cruz added.

Bayan Muna party list Rep. Liza Maza said Napocor should come up with more credible explanations. "If they cannot give us a satisfactory answer, then heads should roll," Maza said. Beltran noted that a previous power outage was explained by an alleged "attack of jellyfish."

Pure coincidence

In a separate interview, Energy Secretary Vincent Perez denied that the blackout was connected to the PPA issue.

"The blackout and the PPA are purely coincidental," Perez said. "As such, payments for the PPA will continue to be collected."

He added that the Senate and the House committees on energy had ended their respective hearings on the proposed reduction of the PPA.

"Yesterday's hearing was the last and discussions on the PPA in the Senate and in the House will be brought to the floor," Perez said.

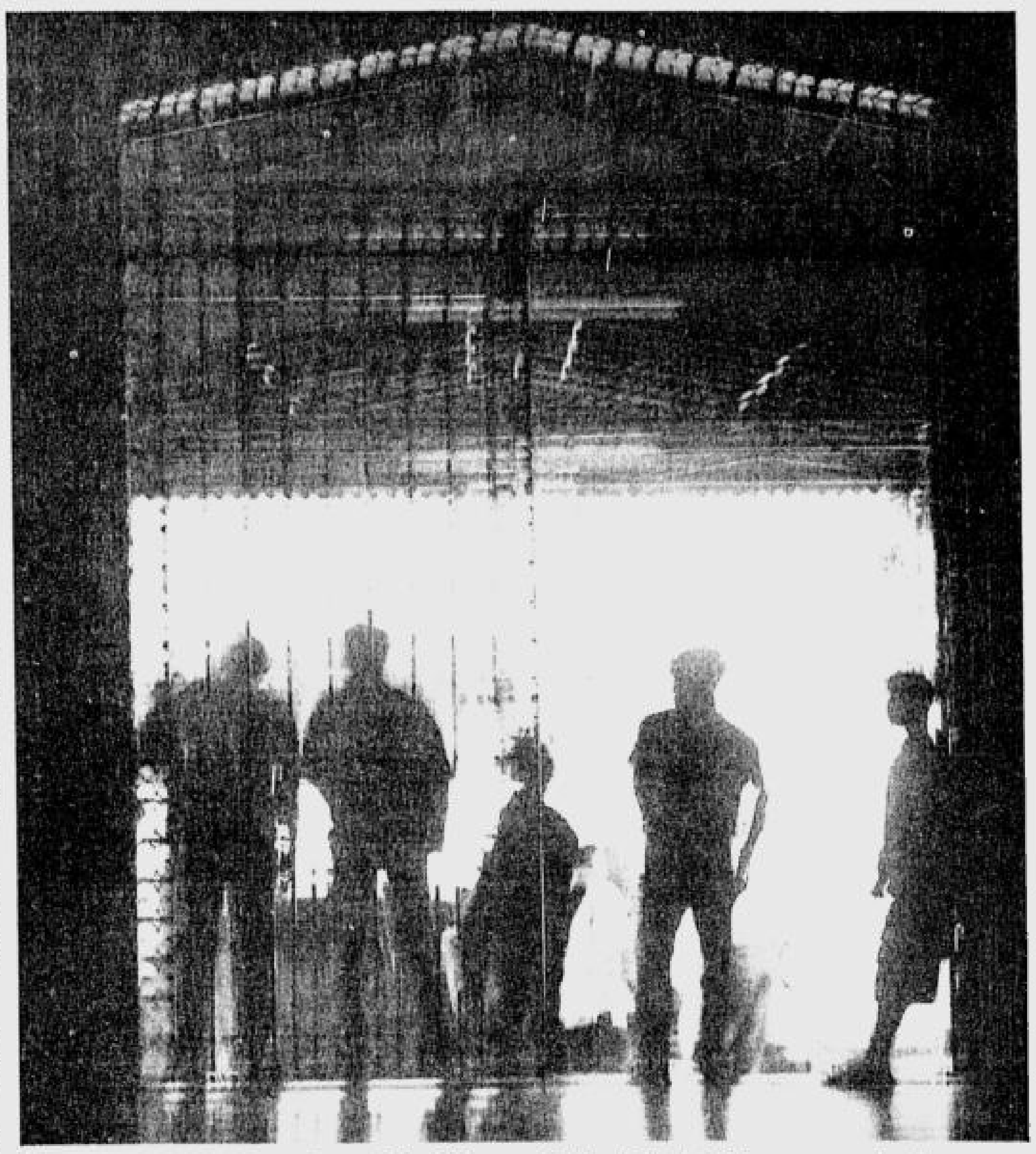
In Tokyo, President Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday's blackout underscored the need to privatize Napocor's transmission assets as soon as possible.

She told the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan that the blackout "goes to show that we do have to privatize the Transco (the National Transmission Corp., which handles the transmission assets of Napocor) because the private sector is a better manager than government."

The Armed Forces assured the public that yesterday's blackout was not caused by or did not pose a security threat.

"We would like to assure the people that this blackout is not in any way connected or instigated by any threat group," Lt. Col. Jose Mabanta, AFP public information chief, said.

"We have directed our forces to be vigilant against groups who might take advantage of this power outage, as a precautionary measure," he added. ***With reports from Elena Torrijos in Japan, and Ronnel Domingo and Martin Marfil in Manila***



THE SUFFOCATING confines of the Western Police District drive cops and other personnel out of their offices.

ERIK ARAZAS

PRESIDENT Macapagal on her way to a conference with Nikkei president Takuhiko in Tokyo.

MALACAÑANG PHOTO

Why do blackouts occur when GMA is abroad?

By Dona Pazzibugan

ARE power outages hounding the country's most powerful official?

For the second time, a power blackout has hit Luzon while the President was abroad. On Nov. 4 last year, President Macapagal-Arroyo was in Brunei for the Asean Summit when yet another transmission line tripped, cutting off power throughout Luzon.

And in January, just five days before the President was to leave for a nine-day visit to Britain, Canada and the United States, yet another blackout struck.

Napocor traced the problem to a "short circuit" in the Tayabas, Quezon sub-station.

"I think this is just coincidence," acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable, Jr. said when told of the connection between the President's trips and the blackouts. "These are accidents. I mean, the signs would have been clear if these are (acts of) sabotage. I think it's just a mere trip in the transmission line like what happened the last time," he added.

Last year, the President told Napocor officials that she would not tolerate another island-wide blackout. Afable said the President expects an investigation of the latest incident. "Let's just wait for her action after she receives the details of this incident," he said.

In Tokyo, the President expressed confidence that the Napocor's planned bond issue this year would be successful despite the larger deficit that the power firm was incurring as a result of the suspension and possible reduction of the PPA.

"It is a good time for the Philippines to do the restructuring (of Napocor's financing through the bond issue) since the spread is in our favor and is becoming narrower and narrower," the President said.

She explained that the quantity or amount of bonds to be issued might now be different from the original targets because of the recent policy decision to reduce the surcharge, but she said the country's return to the bond market has been successful thus far. She pointed out that the government was even declared bond issuer of the year by Euromoney. ***With a report from Elena Torrijos***

DPWH: Taguig feud shows why pork has to go

From page A1

destroying infrastructure projects, including those of his father, former Taguig Rep. Dante Tinga, to give way to Cayetano's projects.

In the letter, the young Tinga complained that Cayetano had caused the destruction of a covered structure at the Purok Plaza in Sitio Central Bicutan to pave the way for the construction of "Sen. Rene Cayetano's project, an alleged P25-million sports complex." The senator is the congressman's father.

Demolition

Tinga said the construction of the sports complex would require the demolition of a "basketball plaza which was built from former Rep. Dante O. Tinga's CDF worth P150,000." The former congressman is the mayor's father.

The sports complex would also destroy a playground worth P300,000 built by the Philippine Tourism Authority, a covered structure worth P800,000 put up by the municipal government and a stage and rest room worth P130,000.

Tinga said the destruction of the covered structure and other projects were done without coordination with the municipal government.

The mayor said he was forced to stop the project of the Cayetanos.

But in a telephone interview, Rep. Alan Cayetano accused Tinga of blocking his projects for political reasons.

He said he and his father had sought proper clearance for the projects, but Tinga was not willing to give them any permit to start construction.

"He has no concept of improvement," the congressman said. "If his definition of destruction is building a P25-million sports complex, then I am guilty," Cayetano said.

Cayetano said he was not against the idea of scrapping the pork barrel as long as the funds were adequately distributed to areas where they are needed.

Another DPWH official said that without pork, the fight between the two political families would not happen.

"Take away the pork and they will revert to their status as senators and congressmen," he said.

Employment quotas

In the Senate, Sen. Robert Barbers is pushing for employment quotas in exchange for his giving up P200 million in pork barrel a year.

Barbers wants each member of the Senate to be allowed to recommend for employment in different national government agencies at least 10 qualified people and 10 casuals.

"Additional employment is a major factor that can help alleviate the suffering of our people and improve the quality of their life," Barbers said.

Barbers came up with the proposal as the debate over the proposal of Lacson to scrap the pork barrel heated up.

Senate President Franklin Drilon said Monday that he had no problem giving up pork barrel as it was not crucial to the election of senators.

He said members of the House of Representatives would object to the scrapping of pork barrel as their political survival depended on it.

"If they don't want it, don't use it," Camarines Sur Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr. said.

Andaya, chair of the House appropriations committee, said funds not used by senators would revert to the treasury.

He said even congressmen had the option not to use their pork barrel.

Senators are entitled to identify projects worth P200 million each every year from two sources of pork barrel—the Priority Development Assistance Funds (PDAF) taken from various departments and the Public Works Funds from the Department of Public Works and Highways.

Each representative from a congressional district is entitled to P65 million in PDAF and to at least P35 million in public works projects every year. The money is not released to legislators but they identify the projects for funding.

Andaya took exception to the statement by some senators that congressmen depend on pork barrel for political survival. "Not only political survival but public service," he said.

"This is what our constituents ask. Who would answer for roads and bridges and school buildings? It is but natural for congressmen to lobby for these funds," Andaya said.

Andaya said the senators were passing up the opportunity to serve the people if they refrained from availing themselves of pork.

House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla, who is Lacson's partymate, is also opposing the scrapping of pork.

Padilla noted that pork barrel began in the United States. He noted that the US Congress was created in order to have a mechanism for disbursing pork barrel.

Reason for being

"Our reason for being is the pork barrel," said Padilla, who argued that abolishing the pork barrel was not the solution to corruption.

Western Samar Rep. Antonio Eduardo Nachura admitted that pork barrel had helped congressmen get reelected.

"Let us be realistic. Politics today requires that politicians, if they want to win elections, be able to show projects from their own efforts," Nachura said.

He said this was also true also for senators. "Even for senators, the imperatives of political survival apply," he said.

Nachura and Eastern Samar Rep. Marcelino Libanan proposed that the senators' pork be given to congressional districts.

"If the senators don't need it, we can use it for the development projects for our districts," said Libanan, chair of the House justice committee.

Libanan said the Senate's pork should be rechanneled to Region 8, which he said has not had a senator the past 15 years.

Barbers said he was willing to allow congressmen to use his pork barrel.

If the 24 senators agree to his proposal a total of P4.4 billion a year could be divided among House members for the infrastructure and livelihood needs of their districts.

Barbers noted that when he was a congressman, his constituents approached him everyday for assistance for infrastructure projects.

He said eliminating pork barrel would enable senators to concentrate in passing laws.

Courtesy

Senate President Pro Tempore Manuel Villar urged his colleagues to limit their comments to the pork barrel allocation of senators.

"We should respect inter-chamber courtesy by not commenting on the actions of the Lower House," Villar said at a press conference.

He said Pichay was right in complaining about certain senators' statements on the pork barrel.

Villar, former Speaker of the House of Representatives, said that pork barrel was very important for congressmen since they have local constituency.

He said some congressmen represented remote districts, which badly need government projects. ***With reports from Juliet L. Javellana and Cynthia D. Balana***

Bert . . .

From page A1

last year. Before that he was finance secretary.

De Villa himself has a heart condition, and he retired after undergoing a triple bypass.

The President later named him as her adviser on "strategic concerns," but he remains in the United States to recuperate.

Surprise

Afable said Romulo, who turns 70 in August, was just as surprised as they were about his heart surgery.

"What I know is that he went for a routine checkup but then was informed he needed these medical measures so he had to undergo an operation," Afable said.

Romulo even presided over a two-hour meeting in Malacañang last Friday, Afable said, "and there were no indications that he was sick or anything."

When a reporter pointed out that De Villa also had heart surgery while serving the President, Afable said the physical condition of the two men was "not necessarily" caused by pressure at work.

"This condition just stayed (with them) for a long time," he said. "It's just that (it was discovered when) they had a medical checkup."

Afable added that De Villa was "surprised to learn he had this heart condition," and that in Romulo's case, "it came as a very big surprise to us, too."

But Cruz was not as forthright about Romulo's condition when reporters interviewed him in the morning.

When asked why Romulo went on leave, Cruz said: "He had a checkup. We're just clearing exactly what announcement to be read."

Early on in her presidency, Ms Macapagal acknowledged the rigors of working in Malacañang.

"The hectic schedule has already hit the guys in my Cabinet—Executive Secretary Renato de Villa may have to undergo a bypass…" she told reporters on April 22 last year.

"I myself lost 23 pounds to date," she added.

US hostage 'very sick;' new Southcom chief takes over

ZAMBOANGA CITY—American hostage Martin Burnham is "very sick and weak," according to reports reaching the military.

Col. Alexander Aleo, chief of the Army's 103rd Brigade, said civilian informants saw Martin Burnham being carried on a stretcher by his Abu Sayyaf captors two days ago.

But Aleo said this information was still being validated.

He said the Abu Sayyaf was also reportedly demanding medicines and food supplies, "because Martin is very sick and weak."

There were no reports if Martin was seen with his wife Gracia.

Aleo stressed that operations to rescue the Burnhams and Filipino nurse Ediborah Yap continue.

Yesterday, newly-installed Southern Command chief Maj. Gen. Ernesto Carolina said he will "let my punches do the talking," referring to the operations against the bandit group.

Carolina said the Abu Sayyaf will experience "more punches" in the next few days.

Carolina said the US-backed military offensive has largely dismantled the Abu Sayyaf and he pledged to try to finish it off during his two-year term.

"I would carry the brunt of really finishing this job," Carolina told reporters after assuming leadership of the Southern Command forces, which includes about half of the Philippines' 110,000 troops.

"I always say the Abu Sayyaf is an acute appendicitis that needs immediate incision. It's not a long-term thing but it could kill you if you don't attend to it," said Carolina, a former military spokesperson.

US soldiers in counter terrorism training with Filipino troops in the southern Philippines attended the change of command rite at a heavily secured military camp in Zamboanga city that reverberated with ceremonial mortar shots.

The al-Qaida linked Abu Sayyaf emerged in the early 1990s as a small band of young Muslim militants and disgruntled members of a larger Muslim separatist group. The guerrillas portray themselves as Muslim independence fighters but have often committed banditry, particularly kidnapping.

The Burnhams were seized along with Corona, California, resident Guillermo Sobero and 17 Filipinos from a Philippine resort on May 27 last year and then held on the poor, mountainous island of Basilan.

Sobero was among several hostages killed by the guerrillas.

A massive military offensive that began shortly after the kidnappings has drained guerrilla strength from more than a thousand to fewer than 100 scattered men hiding from troops in Basilan, which is twice the size of Singapore.

But despite help from US satellites and surveillance aircraft, the poorly equipped local troops have struggled to locate the holdouts.

Julie Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau, AP

Gloria: They're still alive

TOKYO—President Macapagal-Arroyo said Tuesday that American missionaries held hostage by Muslim extremists are still alive, despite the extremists' threats to kill the couple.

Ms Macapagal's remarks were the first indication in weeks that the couple hasn't been killed. Earlier this month, the Abu Sayyaf kidnappers ruled out negotiating the release of Martin and Gracia Burnham of Wichita, Kansas.

The President's comments come just a day after US Brig. Gen. Donald Wurster admitted a massive US-backed search for the couple has turned up few leads—despite the use of US military surveillance planes and equipment since January.

The Philippine military has been trying to rescue the Burnhams for nearly a year. And Ms Macapagal defended her decision to bring in US forces, saying they have provided key training and equipment to her country's military.

The Abu Sayyaf has since threatened to kill the Burnhams if troops close in.

Speaking in Tokyo on Tuesday, The President insisted the couple was still "alive," and that the presence of US troops was not aimed specifically at freeing them—yet she declined to say what basis she had for believing the Burnhams still lived. ***AP***

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Mending the net

EDITORIAL

THE SOCIAL Security System may run out of funds in 10 years, SSS president Corazon de la Paz told the INQUIRER last Friday. She has sounded the note of imminent depletion in the past few months, but it was only last week that she dared to specify the point of no return. In 1999, the SSS funds were projected to last until 2015—already an alarming estimate. Last Friday, De la Paz raised the alert level by several notches.

Unfortunately, she has the numbers to back her up.

Simply put, contributions from members have fallen behind the curve. In six of the last 10 years, the total value of benefits granted to members was greater than the total value of members' contributions. The gap widened considerably in the last three years; last year, the difference between contributions received and benefits granted was no longer a breach but a chasm: P31.4 billion in contributions, P39 billion in benefits, or a difference of P7.6 billion.

To be sure, contributions are only one of the system's two sources of revenue. Investment income in 2001 added P14.3 billion to the SSS revenue stream. The income represents some 9.2 percent of the system's P151.2 billion in investments.

But as the country's sorry experience under the Estrada administration shows, investments are not risk-free. The SSS, with some P40 billion invested in the stock market, has always been a market mover, but under the over-aggressive investment regime of Estrada administrator Carlos Arellano, the system put too many of its eggs in the equities basket: from 19.7 percent of total investment funds in 1998 to P27.8 percent in 1999, to P28.5 percent in 2000. In 1999, the strategy paid off, earning a 20-plus percent return. In 2000, however, the chickens came home to roost; the system had a negative return of minus 2.9 percent.

Today, two years after that nail-biting display of irresponsible investing, the SSS has brought down its exposure in the stock market to 27 percent. It cannot shrink its share as fast as it may like, because many of the stocks bought under the Estrada administration are still trading at a loss. In other words, if the SSS sells, say, more of its Equitable-PCIBank shares, it will merely convert its paper losses to actual ones.

Of course, the element of risk cannot be discounted, not even in loans extended to solidly-backed debtors. That is precisely why the basic fund-management program that the SSS has followed since it was founded 45 years ago tries to minimize the risk from investments by relying more on members' contributions. "Thus, over the long haul, increases in the contribution rate are part and parcel of the actuarial design of the SSS program," De la Paz told the country's leading managers and businessmen last March.

In other words: increases in contributions must keep pace with increases in members' benefits. That, however, is precisely the problem.

"I have come to the conclusion that one major reason for the debacle the SSS now finds itself in, is the rapid rate at which SSS benefit levels have been increased relative to contributions over the past two decades," De la Paz said last March. Rapid does not begin to describe it. In the 20 years between 1980 and 2000, the SSS implemented 19 across-the-board pension increases, with an annual average increase of 13.4 percent. During the Aquino administration alone, the SSS granted eight increases.

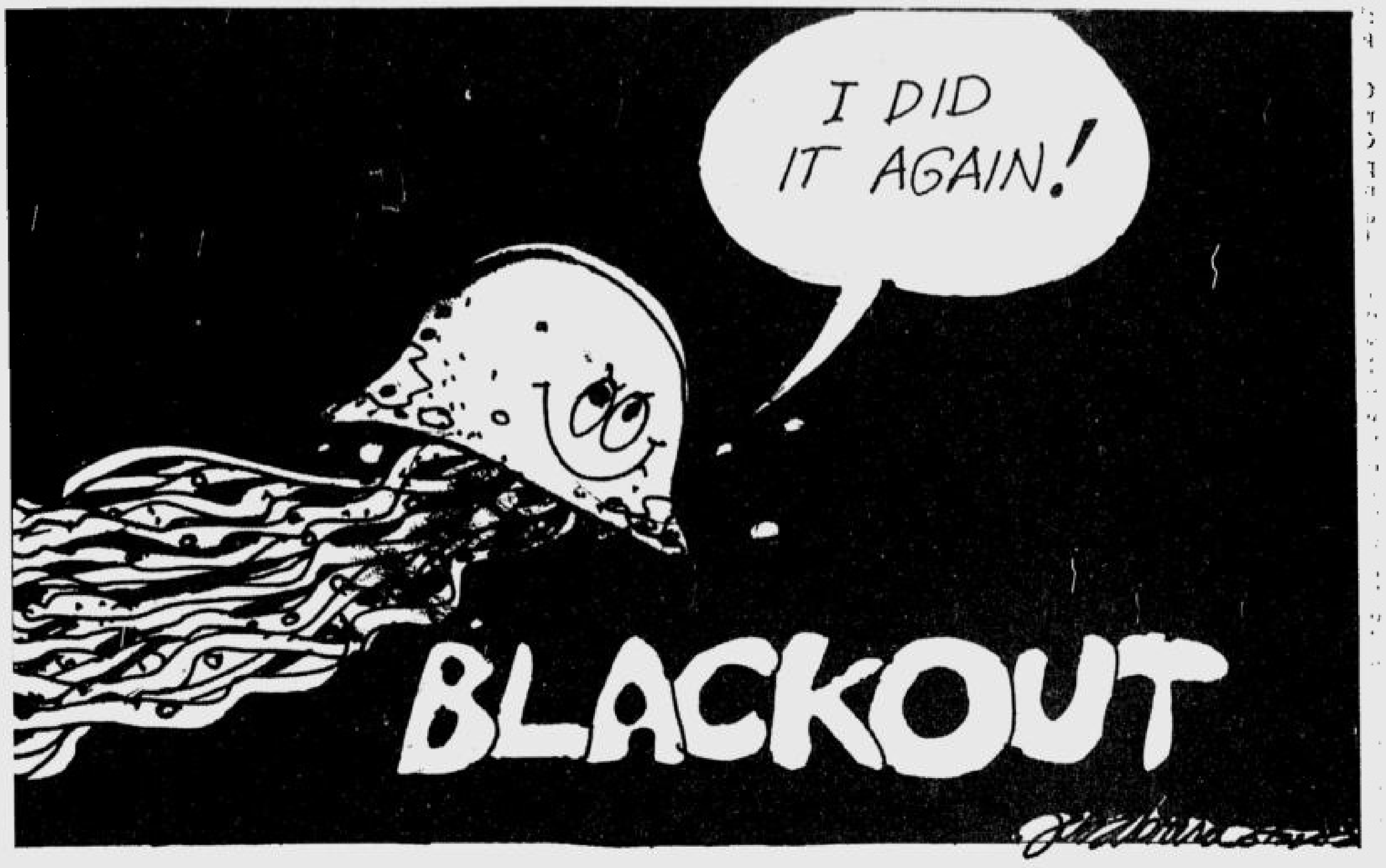
The last time there was an increase in the members' contribution rate, however, was in 1980. That was when the current rate was pegged at 8.4 percent. In contrast, the Government Service Insurance System levies a rate of 21 percent—a level of contribution at par with the social security regimes of neighboring Malaysia and faraway Turkey.

The issue, then, is cut-and-dried. There is a need to increase the contribution rate shouldered by the system's 24 million members. De la Paz suggests the ideal rate is 16 percent, if there are no additional increases in benefits, or 22 percent, if increases are allowed. The question is, how much, and when.

Here the numbers are no longer actuarial, but political.

Does President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo have the political will to force an increase? If the matter were purely a pragmatic exercise in the art of the possible, the time is not ripe. But if, as we ought to, we see the issue as a test case in governance, the time is long overdue. But aside from timing, there are also cultural considerations. (Some four-fifths of the system's P26 billion in salary loans, for example, are past due.)

Clearly, the safety net that is social security must be mended—even if the President has to prick the people's conscience with the needle of reform.



Message is clear: No PPA, no power

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THERE may be other reasons given for yesterday's Luzon-wide brownout, but the message seems to be loud and clear: you don't want to pay the PPA (purchased power adjustment)? No PPA, no electricity.

This is no joke. The PPA is charged by the National Power Corp. to Meralco and other power distributors. In fact, Meralco has already paid for it by the time it appears in your electric bills. If Meralco fails to collect it, it won't have any money to pay the Napocor for the power it distributes to customers. Therefore, the Napocor will cut the power to Meralco and it will have no electricity to distribute.

There is no getting away from the PPA. It is a part of the cost of electricity. Of course, it is popular for any official to order its removal—like what President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo did. She earned *pogi* points for it.

But who will pay for it if the power consumers don't? The government? That means the taxpayers, all of them, including those who don't use electricity. For where does the government get its money but from the taxpayers?

The PPA is part of obligations and debts that must be paid. The government can borrow money to pay for it, but that only increases the obligations. The loans and debts, plus the interest on them, get bigger. In the end, we have to pay more.

The loans can be extended for a longer time. We pay less now but for a longer period. But the longer the repayment period, the more interest we have to pay. What it means is that our children and grandchildren will have to pay more for the debts we incurred. Future power rates will, over time, be loaded and saddled with costs of electricity already consumed by previous generations. Obviously, future generations will not be happy with the PPA obligations passed on them by their elders.

But making the PPA disappear now is the popular thing to do. *Bahala na ang susunod na mga presidente. Problema na nila 'yan.*

That is why there is now a contest as to who can suspend the PPA longest. "I can do it for two months," said the President. Which she did in her Labor Day announcement cutting the Napocor's PPA by 85 centavos per kilowatt-hour. Partial suspension though it was, and only for a short spell, her action has nonetheless earned widespread applause.

Congress wants to do better. Under House Bill 4741 seeking to amend RA 9136, the Electric Power Industry Reform Act, or Epira, the collection would be suspended by anywhere between 15 and 25 years.

The radical hotheads will top that if they can have their way. They would tear up the contracts with the independent power producers, the hated IPPs, so that we would not have any more PPA to pay.

The public being naturally opposed to paying anything higher than it is used to, any proposal to defer the PPA or make it disappear permanently, is cheered lustily.

But the PPA cannot be made to disappear permanently. Like Dracula, it will come back from the dead to haunt our children and grandchildren. As already explained, it will, like the phoenix, rise again in the form of accumulated obligations which future generations will have no choice but to bear.

This is not a popular thing to say but it is the truth. There is no escaping it. A debt is a debt that has to be paid. And the longer we wait to pay it, the bigger it becomes.

The silver lining is that by not paying now when times are hard and there's not enough money, it gives us a breathing spell to prepare for the future. Hopefully, things may be better then; the economy may improve, income may rise, the standard of living may be better and we may have more money to pay that blasted PPA. But what if we don't? *Bahala na sila.* I don't want to think about it now.

There's another complication we don't want to think about: What about the future when the economy improves and we need more electricity for the industries that will open and expand? We will need more companies to build more power plants to generate electricity. These are the hated IPPs which we are now treating as villains and trying to drive away. If there are no IPPs to invest in new power plants, there will be a shortage of power; factories will slow down or close shop, workers will be laid off, there will be economic depression and everybody will suffer.

But how will investors come in if the rules keep changing as populist responses to popular clamor?

If the privatization of the Napocor is to succeed, industry investors must be assured that the horses would not be changed in the middle of the stream. They have to be certain that the market system, competition and fair trade practices will work. They have to be convinced that good economics will prevail over bad politics. Otherwise, privatization will fail.

We don't have to look far to see the adverse effects of shortsighted solutions in dealing with the PPA problem such as the current witch hunt. Our neighbor Indonesia faces an energy crisis in the next few years because of changing rules. As a result, power companies have refused to enter the Indonesian energy sector. In the face of mounting demand for electricity, no new plants are being built or scheduled.

Let us not fall into the same trap.

World-class

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THAT was a heartwarming piece of news that came out on our front page last Sunday. The one that told of the science teacher from Iloilo, Josette Talamera Biyo, bagging the Intel Foundation Excellence in Teaching Award in a science fair in Kentucky. She bested 90 other participants worldwide.

Several other Filipinos, all students, won awards for various science projects. But it was Biyo's accomplishment that stood out. She was the first Asian teacher to win the award since it began in 1997. What won it for her, among other things, was her answer to a question posed to her during her seven-minute presentation before the board of judges. That was the part I found exceptionally heartwarming, as obviously also did the judges in that event.

Asked why she was teaching in high school although she had a doctorate in biology, she answered, "Who else will teach the kids?" When the panel expressed shock that she was getting only $300 for her pains, she said, "I did not get my PhD just to check papers. I got it to teach children."

Biyo is no stranger to awards, having gotten the Metrobank award for most outstanding teacher in 1987 and the TOYM award for secondary education in 1998. Her remarks after the science fair showed why the Intel Award was richly deserved and why it won't be the last to come her way. "Our youth will be the leading scientists and researchers of tomorrow, and their creativity and passion will fuel the next breakthrough discoveries." Toward that end, "teachers have to be committed to their profession, they should not stop learning and they should develop their skills through seminars so they can inject new ideas."

It is a shaft of bright light amid the pitch darkness. Especially so since it is the second one to come in barely a couple of months, quite uncannily along the same lines. Early in April, Ryan Balili, a summa cum laude from the Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology, who graduated from a course in physics with an average grade of 1.13, startled the world by announcing that he would devote his life to teaching. His story found itself in our Across the Nation pages, and it was as wonderful a piece of news as this country could get. Balili had already taken the untraveled path by opting to study in MSU despite having passed with flying colors the entrance exams at the UP and Ateneo. Now with the world lying before him like an oyster, he had chosen to remain in the province—and teach.

Balili's answer to questions that were put to him by reporters show how brilliant minds work along parallel lines. Asked why he wanted to teach also in high school when he could aspire for Nasa, he answered: Who was going to teach the kids? The youth, he believed too, were the future of the country and deserved the best teachers they could get. "I want to make physics fun for them," he vowed.

All this of course gives us hope this country still has a great future ahead of it. But quite apart from that, it corrects a misconception we tend to have about what constitutes world-class, or what it takes to be world-class. Almost automatically, we think of world-class as going international, or taking on the world in active competition. Better still, we think of it as living abroad, particularly in the developed countries, and showing ourselves to be among the best and brightest there.

Or if not the developed countries, any other country. Only last month, the government launched a campaign that carried the very name, "Pinoy, World-Class," which was meant to extol the virtues of the overseas Filipino workers. The idea apparently was to show that the Pinoy was world-class because his services were in demand in various parts of the world. But it was an idea the maids in Hong Kong, Singapore and Saudi Arabia, many of whom were much abused and exploited and pined for home, would have found monumentally ironic. It was faint praise, the kind that rubbed salt on a wound. If that was world-class, most OFWs would have settled for being provincial.

As Biyo and Balili show, that isn't what being world-class is all about. Being world-class begins by being a class act, and being a class act begins by doing the right thing without thought of reward or benefit, or what others would say. The doing is the reward or benefit enough in itself. And what others would say, well, if what one does brings international recognition, as in the case of Biyo, fine. If it doesn't, as in the case of Balili, just as fine. The real recognition is to be found in the hearts of the people one has touched, or in the eyes of the children one has opened.

Being world-class doesn't mean looking into the world out there, it means seeing the world around oneself, or better still within oneself. It doesn't even mean living in the capital, which we imagine, wrongly, to be our best bet of being thrust into the global community. Biyo and Balili do not. They have opted to live in the province and to put their formidable abilities at the service of their communities. That's what's brought the world to notice them.

In the end, they prove once again the paradox that bigness is to be found in small things, the universal is to be found in the particular, the universe is to be found in a grain of sand. It is our passion for the here and now, it is our dedication to our particular communities, it is our desire to do good for the least of our brethren that sends the strongest ripples across the world. We may imagine that Biyo and Balili are making a tremendous sacrifice, opting to live the way they do amid the opportunities available to them. Yet for them, it is only the most natural thing in the world, the fullest use of their potential. That is dazzlingly brilliant.

That is simply, world-class.

Honoring the Siege of Baler

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

IN A RARE act of crossing partisan lines, 13 senators have authored a bill declaring June 30 as Fil-Hispanic Day recognizing the friendship and shared historical and cultural values between the Philippines and Spain.

The centerpiece of this bill is the Siege of Baler, Quezon province, where 50 Spanish soldiers garrisoned themselves inside the Baler Catholic Church and resisted 11 months of siege by Filipino revolutionary troops numbering 800 at their peak. The siege took place from June 28, 1898 until June 2, 1899, when the garrison surrendered.

The garrison was probably the last Spanish stronghold to fall into revolutionary hands. In recognition of the gallantry and valor of the Spanish soldiers, President Emilio Aguinaldo on June 30, 1899, issued a decree declaring: "The Spanish soldiers manning the garrison of Baler, having won the admiration of the world through their valor, determination and heroism—with no hope of external help—defended their flag during a year, achieving an epic resistance as glorious and worthy of the legendary valor of Cid and Pelayo: giving homage to the military virtues and interpreting the feelings of the Army of this Republic that fought the Spanish soldiers with bravery…I dispose, as follows: 'The persons composing said detachment shall not be considered as prisoners, but on the contrary, as friends and consequently they will be provided by the general company the necessary safe conduct pass for them to return to their country.'"

This decree of June 30, 1899, is the anchor of the Senate bill using the Siege of Baler as the event for the renewal of the long-neglected historical and cultural ties between the Philippines and its former colonial motherland for more than 300 years. The bill was prepared by the committees on constitutional amendments, revision of laws and finance, with the following members: Senators Edgardo Angara, John Osmeña, Rene Cayetano, Tessie Aquino-Oreta, Rodolfo Biazon, Luisa Ejercito-Estrada, Gregorio Honasan, Robert Jaworski, Panfilo Lacson, Blas Ople, Serge Osmeña III, Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Vicente Sotto III. There are few bills in the Senate that can bring these signatures together on a piece of paper. The bill is a catch-up to Philippine-American Friendship Day celebrated on July 4, indicating concrete demonstration of Filipino appreciation of their historical ties with Spain.

The siege began on June 28, 1898, after the demolition in May of the Spanish fleet in Manila Bay by Adm. George Dewey's armada and the opening on June 1, 1898 of hostilities between Filipino revolutionary and Spanish troops. Five months earlier, a detachment of 50 Spanish soldiers arrived in Baler to replace another detachment killed by Filipino troops. The old detachment had been quartered in several houses in Baler, including (according to the historian Carlos Quirino) the house of school teacher Lucio Quezon, father of Manuel Luis Quezon, who was to become the president of the Philippine Commonwealth in 1935.

Following the attack of June 28, the Spanish commander, Capt. Enrique de las Morenas, ordered his troops to retreat to the Baler Church, where they fortified themselves. It was the only stone structure in the region, according to Quirino who describes the siege, as follows:

The Spaniards stored supplies including flour, 70 cavans of palay, chick peas, sardines, olive oil, wine, coffee, sugar, bacon, beans and corned beef. The supplies lasted up to six months. Within two months, the troops were ravaged by scurvy and dysentery. The commander, Captain Morenas, died from disease. Lt. Saturnino Martin Cerezo, a disciplinarian, took command. Several demands were put for the surrender of the garrison. The Filipino commander sent newspapers to the garrison reporting that the Spanish government in Manila had surrendered to the Americans on Aug. 13.

The Spaniards refused to believe the reports, and Lieutenant Cerezo destroyed the newspapers.

The Filipinos tried to break the Spanish morale by exhibiting women in "lascivious postures" in front of the garrison, according to Quirino. "In plain view of the sex-starved troops a man and a woman were made to copulate." Lieutenant Martin ordered his soldiers to leave the walls, except the sentries.

At one point, the Filipinos tried to scale the church and to burn it. They were discovered when the cans scattered by the Spaniards around the church made a clanging noise. The assault was repelled.

In May, a Spanish officer appeared in the church with an order for the garrison to surrender, saying that Spain had lost the war to the United States. Lieutenant Martin did not believe, thinking it was a trick. The officer, Lt. Col. Cristobal Aguila, left a newspaper, through which Lieutenant Martin realized the war had ended. With supplies ebbing, he had planned to abandon the church in May, since defending it was becoming more difficult. The newspaper report hastened his decision to surrender. On June 2, 1899, 337 days after the siege began—33 survivors left the church and were evacuated to Spain with military honors given by both the Philippine and US governments.

In a visit to Spain last Holy Week, Angara met some of the relatives of the Baler veterans in Sevilla and Barcelona. In some towns and cities in Spain, the streets are named in honor of the "heroes of Baler." A newspaper in Barcelona, La Vanguardia, compared the Siege of Baler to the siege of the Alamo in Texas in February to March 1836. Mexican forces overran the Alamo, a mission church in San Antonio, after a siege of 13 days. All the Texan defenders died. The Texans were estimated to have lost 189 defenders and 1,600 Mexicans died.

Hypocrisy and school policies

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

A NEW school year is about to open, so I guess it's but timely to touch on the matter of school admissions policies again. And just to prove that I have nothing against solo or separated parents, let me recount the experience of a solo parent when she tried to enroll her daughter in a prestigious Catholic institution.

By way of background, "Ms A" is an entrepreneur, a mother of two, who has been raising her children all by herself ever since she filed for a declaration of nullity about nine years ago. (The petition was granted only recently.)

"I am writing you in the hope that the arrogance and hypocrisy of so-called 'Catholic' schools who have prejudiced the rights of children of single and/or separated parents (to avail of) a decent education be exposed," "Ms A" e-mailed me a few days ago.

As "Ms A" recounted in a subsequent phone conversation, she first went to Woodrose School in Alabang last December to inquire about enrollment procedures for her daughter, who was set to enter high school. "I dutifully filled up the application forms and told the truth about my civil status," "Ms A" says. The school personnel accepted her documents, and when she followed up some weeks later, all they told her was that the application was being processed. "It was only in March, just before Holy Week, that they finally told me my daughter could not take the entrance exams," "Ms A" recounts. And when she asked them why, she was told it was because "school policy" did not allow the enrolment of children of separated or solo parents. "The school is not equipped to handle children of broken families," school personnel said when she pressed them for details.

* * *

"DOES it mean that these children automatically become problem children as compared to those of whole families?" "Ms A" asks in her letter. "Had they interviewed my child, they would even rate her, modesty aside, to belong to the upper 10 percent of well-behaved and well-adjusted children. But with this discrimination shown by 'Christian schools,' it would not be long for children like her to develop an anti-social stance. That is what this school is equipped to do—turn prejudged, innocent children into bitter, angry ones."

"Ms A" knows whereof she speaks. When her daughter was younger, she had attempted to enroll her in two other Catholic institutions—Poveda and Assumption. Again, "Ms A" told the truth about the estrangement between her and her husband. Then, both schools turned down the child, claiming she wasn't able to pass the entrance exams. "Ms A" subsequently enrolled her daughter in Brent International School, where the academic standards are at least on par with most local "exclusive" schools and where the child presumably thrived.

But Brent is an expensive school—US$10,000 a year minimum, I hear—and that is why "Ms A," despite past sad experience, decided to brave the discriminatory policies of elite Catholic institutions and attempted to enroll her daughter in one.

* * *

WHEN I first wrote about this discriminatory policy of certain Catholic schools some years ago, the Department of Education sent me a copy of a circular to both public and private schools. The circular said that refusal to accept a child based solely on the marital status (or lack of) of the child's parents was against the law and department policy. Has that changed?

"Ms A" says that Woodrose personnel claimed the school has all the right to set certain requirements for admission and to choose whom it will accept as students.

But even if Woodrose, as well as Poveda and Assumption, are within their legal rights to "weed out" the "problem" children of single or separated parents, are they "morally" right? "Ms A" asks: "If parents have 'sinned' according to the school's standards, why punish their children? Many parents become estranged because they want to protect their children from the harsh environment created by two incompatible spouses."

Apparently, going by Woodrose standards, it is better for children to live in a strife-torn home, subject to the constant conflict of their warring parents, rather than live with the parent of their choice whose only sin is marrying the wrong person. Apparently, Woodrose believes it is equipped to handle children from such outwardly intact families, held together only by the glue of hypocrisy and social expectations.

"Ms A" says she knows of a single parent who simply faked her marriage contract so her daughter could enter a Catholic school. Is that what it will take to get a girl into Woodrose?

* * *

ACCORDING to "Ms A," discrimination against solo parents is not confined to Catholic schools alone. A friend of hers, a single parent, confided that she once applied with the Department of Foreign Affairs for a discounted travel tax for her children who were travelling with her. The friend's application was turned down because, she was told, her children were "illegitimate." Is it now the policy of the DFA to discriminate against and prejudice the rights of children born out of wedlock?

I told "Ms A" that a law protecting the rights of solo parents and their children, as well as ensuring their welfare, was only recently passed. I didn't have time to get a copy of the "Solo Parents Welfare Act," but I do recall that its basic premise was to protect solo parents and their children from discriminatory policies and practices. I'll try to get a hold of some copies and I have half a mind to send one to the white sepulchres of Woodrose School.

Asean cautious on East Timor membership

NEWS ANALYSIS

Chris Foley

SINGAPORE—East Timor's arrival as a sovereign state has bolstered its claim to a seat at the Asean table, but the 10-nation bloc faces deep soul-searching on whether to provide the extra chair.

As the world's newest nation, East Timor is eager for instant recognition at international forums and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) has become an obvious and immediate target.

But Asean's desire to embrace the entire region in recent years has led to questions about its effectiveness and stinging accusations it was hamstrung by "institutional paralysis" because of its golden rule of consensus.

Burma, whose 1997 admission to Asean drew wide condemnation because of reported human rights abuses, most recently used the consensus requirement to block Dili from observer status when Asean foreign ministers met in February.

Ironically, Burma held out because of East Timorese leaders' "past dealings" with Burma opposition forces led by Aung San Suu Kyi. Three months later Burma released Aung San Suu Kyi from 19 months under house arrest.

Burma's ruling junta on Monday denied it had blocked observer status for East Timor and said it must simply follow procedures.

"It is not correct to say that Burma is objecting to the attainment of Asean observer status by East Timor," a junta spokesperson said. "Our stand regarding East Timor's application is simply that it must follow set procedure.

"First, there must be consensus on the question. Next, there are certain steps and procedures to be followed before a nation can become an observer in Asean.

"These steps include the acceptance and adherence of the principles enshrined in the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation.

"Therefore, East Timor must be in a position to fulfill its obligations."

East Timor has been given "guest" status for the July Asean Regional Forum in Brunei where its application will again be discussed, but Singapore Foreign Minister S. Jayakumar warned there would be no rushed decision.

"I believe it will proceed cautiously…step by step," he said, adding Asean would like to focus more on consolidation before accepting new members.

There was also the issue of whether East Timor seriously wanted to be a member of Asean or was after quick access to member countries and international confirmation of its new status.

"There are competing voices within Dili, where there have been questions about the non-democratic tendencies of Asean," a Singapore-based political scientist specializing in Asean analysis told AFP.

East Timor had previously criticized Asean as being pro-Jakarta, ignoring the drive for self-determination, and failing to prevent Indonesian military-backed militias conducting a wave of violence and murder after the 1999 independence vote.

One of the biggest critics was Jose Ramos Horta, East Timor's new foreign minister and a now strident voice for Asean observer status now, and a full role in five years.

There were also problems with Indonesia, despite President Megawati Sukarnoputri attending the independence celebrations, the Singapore-based analyst said.

"Megawati's appearance at the flag-raising ceremony could be seen as (Asean membership being) a fait accompli, at least at a formal level.

"But some in the Indonesian military are not happy," he said.

The division in the existing Asean ranks was highlighted soon after East Timor made its intentions known in late 1999, when Cambodian leader Hun Sen reportedly said: "Some leaders do not want East Timor as part of Asean."

After Burma blocked the observer status request in February, a Filipino official said there had also been misgivings in Asean over the "political, administrative and logistical implications of East Timor's eventual membership."

East Timor is also keen to join the proposed West Pacific Forum (WPF) being considered by Indonesia and Australia, "as long as that does not mean exclusion from Asean," Horta said, adding that he had been told by some Asean countries, which he did not identify, that WPF membership would exclude East Timor from Asean.

Observer status, now enjoyed by Papua New Guinea, would allow East Timor to attend Asean's annual ministerial meetings and hold informal consultations with the group.

Asean, formed in 1967, groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Burma, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

AFP

I love New York

HIGH BLOOD

Dr. Floriño A. Francisco

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. **—Ed.**

AS our plane started to take off at the JFK International Airport in New York City, I couldn't hold back the tears. For after all, the United States particularly New York City, had been home to me for all of five years. Right after graduation from the UST faculty of medicine and surgery in 1962, I proceeded to Baltimore, Maryland for my rotating internship after I passed the ECFMG exams with a standard certificate which guaranteed a five-year postgraduate training stint in the United States under the Exchange Visitors Program.

After internship, I moved on to the Jersey City Medical Center in New Jersey where I was accepted as a junior resident in Pediatrics. Unfortunately, the graft-ridden medical center had to be closed down by the city government after only a year's stay so I had to be endorsed to the Jewish Medical Center in Brooklyn, New York where I continued my senior residency in pediatrics.

It was while in New York that I came to know the United States more intimately. On my days off, my friends and I would often go around the area to visit the fabled botanical gardens of Brooklyn, Broadway, Times Square, Central Park, the Met Opera House, the enormous NYC public library as well as the fabulous museums.

Every now and then, we would shop at Saks, Lord & Taylor, Brooks Brothers and other fashionable stores on 5th Avenue.

But more often than not, we would be at the bargain basement stores of Gimbel's and Macy's where sweaters, polo shirts and neckties could be had for a mere $1 each. It was on Broadway that I saw the great musicals like the "Sound of Music," "Hello, Dolly" and "Camelot." Indeed, it was easy to fall in love with New York City with its cosmopolitan ambiance. It was literally "a city that never sleeps."

While in the Big Apple, I had the opportunity to attend the worship services at the Marble Collegiate Church on 5th Avenue which was always filled to the rafters, so to speak, by worshippers Sunday after Sunday. People had to queue outside just to get a seat inside the church. Many churchgoers had to be accommodated in another chapel equipped with closed-circuit TV sets. The reason for all these was none other than Rev. Norman Vincent Peale, the resident pastor, whose sermons never failed to mesmerize one and all. He was, after all, the author of the best-selling book, "The Power of Positive Thinking."

After spending two wonderful years in New York City, I had to move on again, this time to Massachusetts where I was accepted as a fellow in adolescent medicine at the Harvard Medical School and the world-famed Children's Hospital of Boston in July of 1967. Here I experienced "rubbing elbows" with medical luminaries like Dr. Charles Janeway, Dr. Alexander Nadas, Dr. John Criggler and Dr. J. Roswell Gallagher himself, the father of Adolescent Medicine.

When I married Dr. Zenaida O. Jimenez in 1973, I promised I would take her someday to New York City. That promise was fulfilled 13 years later. We both attended the International Congress of Pediatrics in Honolulu in 1986 and after the convention we flew to mainland USA. After touring the West Coast, we proceeded to New York for a sentimental visit. We attended Mass at the St. Patrick's Cathedral, rode in a horse-drawn carriage around Central Park, ate in Chinatown and revisited familiar landmarks like the Statue of Liberty in Staten Island, the Rockefeller Center, the Radio City Music Hall and the Empire State Building.

My wife's cousins even treated us to a sumptuous lunch right at the very top of the World Trade Center at The Restaurant of the Windows on the World. Here, we had a fantastic view of all of New Jersey and the Hudson River, much to the delight of my wife who was a first-time visitor. The food served we could now barely remember, but the exhilarating experience it gave us, having lunch at the 107th floor of the magnificent Twin Towers, is worth telling and retelling to friends, relatives and our own children.

Watching the horrendous attack on the World Trade Center on TV last Sept. 11 was a shocking experience for me. But what really moved me to tears was that film clip on CNN showing the venerable US senators singing, "God Bless America…" and the US congressmen singing, "O beautiful for spacious skies for amber waves of grain…"

Now that I'm in my early 60s, I have come to realize more than ever before that the United States, New York City in particular, had been such an important part of my early adult years. For one thing, I miss those changing seasons, the hot pretzels on the subway stations, the smell of roasting chestnuts on the sidewalks and all those familiar places one could see only in New York. My wife and I will always remember that summer of 1986 that we spent in the Big Apple. Of course, it would be a bit more nostalgic to reminisce now that the magnificent World Trade Center is gone.

Dr. Floriño A. Francisco, 62, is a pediatrician based in Cabanatuan City. He is a freelance writer by avocation.

THEY SAID

No two ways about it

"As far as I'm concerned, sexual abuse is a crime whether it's carried out on a serial basis or a singular one."
—John Kelly of the Ireland-based Survivors of Child Abuse group on the sex scandal that rocked the Roman Catholic Church

Citizenship for sale

"It is like selling Filipino citizenship for non-Filipinos. The people should not trust the passage of the bill. We should not let Filipinos abroad decide the fate of this bill."
—Sen. Blas Ople on dual citizenship

What's he talking about?

"What critical collaboration will the LDP say it will end when it never gave that to the administration in the first place?"
—Sen. Joker Arroyo on the opposition party

Erratum

THE "WHATEVER Happened To…?" section of Tuesday, May 21, 2002 titled "Congress slapping incident" was published earlier last October 2001. We regret the inadvertent duplication due to a computer glitch.—**Ed.**

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Taking a stand for children

CATHOLICS and people of all faiths are shocked and scandalized by the appalling revelations involving pedophile priests and the covering up of their crimes against children by some members of the hierarchy in different countries by reassigning the priests and buying the silence of the victims.

The Pope has spoken and declared that there is no place in the Church for priests or religious who abuse children. It is rightly considered a crime by society and an appalling sin in the eyes of God, he said in Rome recently. During a meeting with the American cardinals summoned to answer for the shocking history of abuse and cover-up, the Pope expressed a "profound sense of solidarity and concern" with the victims and their families.

This is the crux of the scandal, firstly, not only have some priests with moral ascendancy over the weak and defenseless children abused them, but also, some Church authorities turned the other way and put the image of the institutional church before the suffering and the trauma of the child victims. The children were given no voice or justice, instead, their silence was frequently bought. The self-sacrificing and upright laity, clergy and religious feel tainted and are rightly outraged at this neglect of the victims and the self-serving cover-up of crimes against children. Many who have been driven to suicide were sexually abused as children, some by priests.

This scandal engulfing the bureaucracy of the Church is not making the Catholics' faith any weaker, according to surveys in the United States, but it is galvanizing them to action. It is the Catholic laity that has taken up the torn and fallen flag of moral leadership and rallied victims, parents and clergy to speak out for justice for the children. They are calling for fundamental changes in Church policy and procedures for dealing with criminal clergy. That faith in the redemptive power of divine justice has given God's people the courage and strength to break years of inculcated submissiveness. The Pope has made it clear that the priests who are proven to be child abusers will be defrocked, and rightly so, the sooner the better.

Here in Zambales the faithful cannot understand why the bishop, supported by some members of the clergy, testified a few weeks ago in court to support a convicted Australian pedophile and a diocesan priest paid bail for the pedophile's temporary release from prison. It indicates a failure to recognize that the victims of child abuse ought to be the primary concern of the Church, not the perpetrators.

The freedom to complain and protest is the most fundamental human right and it has to be exercised no matter who is involved. The child victim must be helped to tell his or her story without fear of retaliation and be given protection and therapy. The victims must be helped to recover and then to pursue justice and end the cycle of abuse by the perpetrator. We adults, journalists and defenders of children have a duty before God and our conscience and society to expose crimes against children even if others are shamed, exposed and punished. No one is above the law, especially those with moral ascendancy over children. To look the other way is to condone and even be a co-conspirator with the abusers and their protectors.

—FR. SHAY CULLEN,
Children's Rights Center,
Preda Foundation, Olongapo City

Confusion over mineral exploration plan

WE read a story that came out on April 24 in your paper, titled "DENR to oppose P5-B mineral exploration plan in Pujada Bay" written by Ferdinand Zuasola.

The story really surprised us in the Mines and Geosciences Bureau-XI. It also surprised DENR-XI regional executive director Jeremias Dolino. Upon verification, Dolino denied having been interviewed about the subject of the story and having answered or in any way implied that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources is opposed to the proposed mineral exploration project in Pujada Bay, Mati, Davao Oriental.

What is actually covered in the National Integrated Protected Areas System (Nipas) Law is the designated 21,000 hectares offshore on Pujada Bay itself. What is being applied for mineral exploration is onshore or the lands near the Pujada Bay that are not included in the protected area. Your writer made it appear that the area being applied for mineral exploration includes the Pujada Bay. The Pujada Bay is known to everybody to be a protected area. And we would have appreciated it if your writer took the time to ascertain the correctness of his data to avoid misleading the readers.

—EDILBERTO J. ARREZA,
mining operations officer,
Mines and Geosciences Bureau
R-XI, Jacinto Street, Davao City

THERE was nothing in the story that indicated Jeremias Dolino was interviewed. The story on the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' opposition was relayed to Ferdinand Zuasola by David Pajarillaga of the DENR's coastal environment program in Mati. Zuasola also did not make it appear that the area being applied for mineral exploration includes the Pujada Bay, but he based it on the statement of sources both from the government and the sectors opposing the project. Maybe it would be better for the government agencies concerned, including the DENR to be more transparent about the exploration and not resort to selective release of information, so that misconceptions, if any, would be avoided.

—PDI Mindanao Bureau

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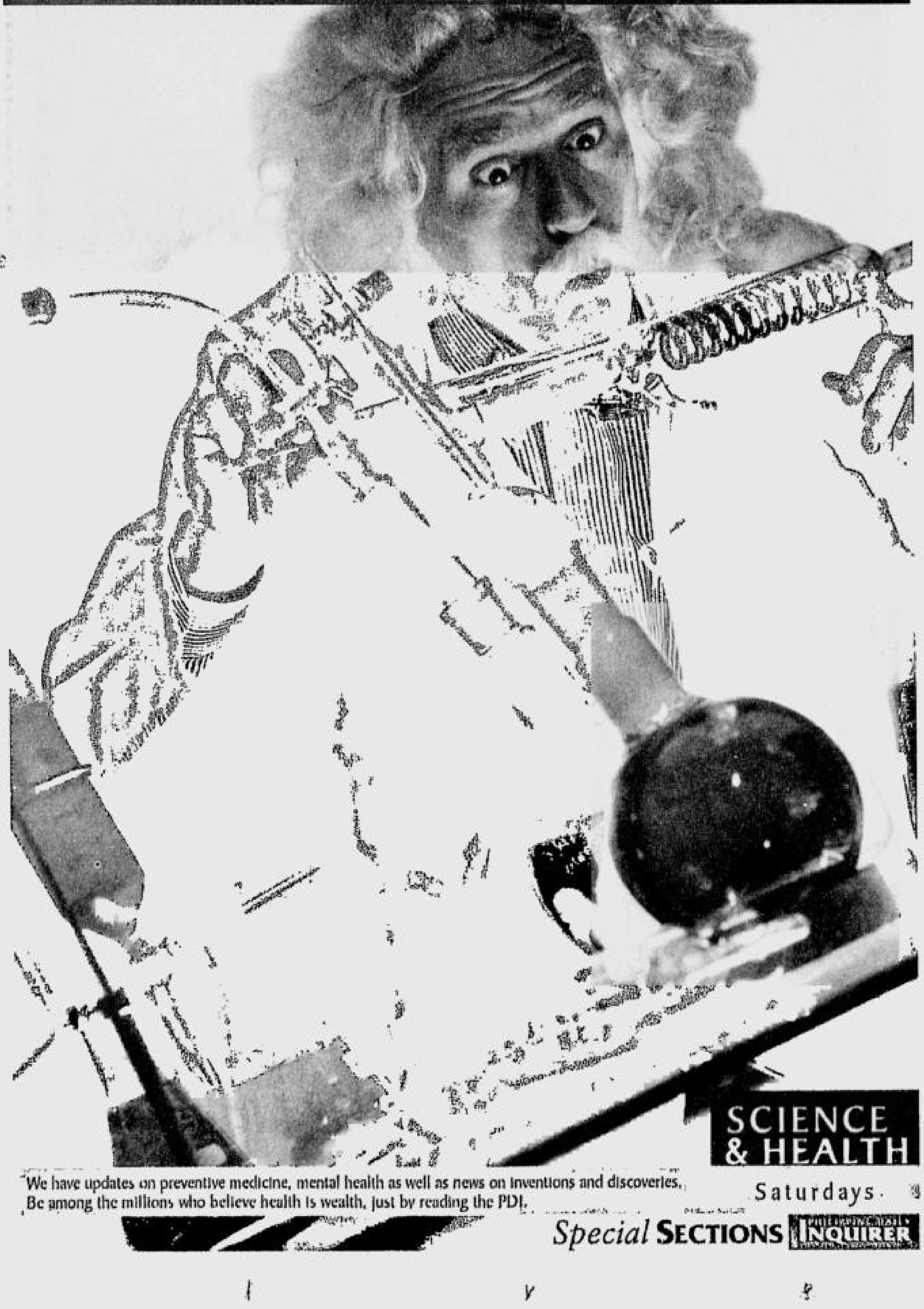
9 out of 10 doctors agree. Reading does help cure illness and disease.



We have updates on preventive medicine, mental health as well as news on inventions and discoveries. Be among the millions who believe health is wealth, just by reading the PDI.

Saturdays

Special SECTIONS INQUIRER

No public funds used in Riverbanks Center

THIS is in reply to the letter of Perry Santos (PDI, 5/1102) specifically to his questions as follows:

"Is it legal, proper and moral for the city government to spend millions of pesos from the public coffers and utilize city employees to improve a piece of property owned by a city official's relatives? Does this not constitute technical malversation of public funds?"

"Are not the improvements principally benefiting private parties and its benefits to the people only incidental?"

These are the facts:

1. The city government of Marikina has not engaged in, nor has the Riverbanks Center (RBC) undertaken any construction work within the complex (old U-Tex compound) which utilize government funds and/or the services of city employees. This covers the construction of roads within the center. Despite being open to the public, these roads are maintained solely by the RBC without government support.

2. The RBC development and the construction of its roads connecting to the C-5 have enhanced the city's economic competitiveness. (Marikina was recently awarded as the most competitive city in the NCR and third in the country.) The criteria for the competitiveness ranking are: increased economic activities, more access/linkages, improved quality of life of the residents, infrastructure, human resource, responsiveness of LGU and cost of doing business.

3. The RBC is one of the city's top taxpayers. Further, its operation has generated employment opportunities benefiting many of our local constituents.

4. Trade and tourism are the city's strategies to help provide jobs to the Marikina people. We have been attracting residents, local tourists and media to come to Marikina because of the development along the river, which includes the RBC.

We thank Mr. Santos for expressing his appreciation of the cleanliness of Marikina and his pride of the place.

—MELVIN A. CRUZ, city administrator, Marikina City

Maynilad advisory did not intend to mislead public

THIS is in reply to the letter of Raul R. de Guzman, president of the Bulacan Association of Water Districts (BAWD). (PDI, 5/13/02)

First, we would like to assure De Guzman and the members of the BAWD that there was no intention to mislead the public regarding the advisory published in the newspapers which compared the water rates of Maynilad and selected provinces and cities, including those of the members of the BAWD. Neither did we want the BAWD members to be placed in a bad light. The comparison was made simply to show the Maynilad water rates and those from surrounding provinces and cities.

The figures were all supplied by the Local Water Utilities Administration. However, the figures for Bulacan used in the advisory were those for commercial rates effective as of May 2001.

In citing rates lower than that in the advisory, De Guzman was using the effective rates as of April 30, 2002 which were not available to us when the advisory was being prepared.

Even with the new April 30 figures, Maynilad's water rate for 10 cubic meter consumption (P76.73) is lowest than those in the provinces and cities cited in the advisory (Laguna, P82.70; Cavite, P101.13; Batangas, P104.60; Bulacan, P116.50; Pampanga, P109.31; Pagsanjan, P120.70; Tagaytay City, P125; Batangas City, P92; Malolos, P104; and Angeles City, P110).

For 30 cubic meter consumption, Maynilad's water rate (P323.96) also remains lower than those of Cavite, P338.09; Batangas, P355.20; Bulacan, P382.70; Pampanga, P350.81; Pagsanjan, P400; Tagaytay City, P467.50; Malolos, P334.50; and Angeles City, P354; except for Laguna, P270.30, and Batangas City, P320, the same situation as in the advisory.

De Guzman adverts to our non-revenue water as basis for determining Maynilad's water rates and asks that we compare our rates with Manila Water. De Guzman is aware why our NRW rate is high and our water rates are higher than Manila Water. We have the older and costlier water network. We assumed 90 percent of the foreign debts of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), totaling $800 million, while Manila Water assumed only 10 percent or around $100 million. Thus, when the peso fell from P26.30 in 1997 to P52 in 2001, the original P20 billion equivalent of the $800-million MWSS debt ballooned to P40 billion in 2001.

Nevertheless, we apologize for whatever unintended confusion may have arisen or been caused by the advisory. We reiterate our position however that Maynilad's rates are lower than the provinces and cities mentioned, except in the case of Laguna and Batangas City in the 30 cubic meter category, as originally stated in our advisory.

—FRANKIE ARELLANO,
senior assistant vice president, Corporate Communication and Environmental Management, Maynilad Water Services Inc.,
MWSS Compound,
Katipunan Road, Balara,
Quezon City

A wake-up call to be heeded

THE WAKE-UP call of Aldo P. Filomeno of the Philippine Alliance Against Pornography (PAAP) about television stations which exhibit vulgar, indecent and lewd shows is a battle cry that deserves to be heard at this time. It goes out for media organizations that have become too lenient to the point that they don't serve their purpose anymore. It is also meant for us whose voice should be heard. It is about time to throw away the facile brand as the so-called "silent majority." Now is no longer the time to be quiet as all around the incursions against our collective sensibilities become more and more pronounced and galling.

The television shows he cited are just the tip of the iceberg. Mothers and ordinary citizens alike who have easy access to noontime shows and even the working men and women on their lunch break can attest to the reality that noontime TV shows have really gone overboard.

Let us react now or else be desensitized to the point of no longer being able to draw the line anymore between what is entertaining and what is truly degrading.

—MIHLGRACE M. SAMONTEZA, 331 SMRC Bldg.,
Katipunan Ave. corner B. Gonzales St., Loyola Heights,
Quezon City

Excess capacity, not excess supply

THE REASON why our agreements with independent power producers (IPPs) now seem onerous is that our country never got to use the capacity the IPPs were contracted for. That capacity was what government planners during the Ramos administration foresaw as the power needed by our industries and foreign investors as our country continued to progress even beyond the former President Fidel Ramos' term. But the anticipated progress did not materialize and now we are stuck with a capacity we are paying for but don't need. Excess capacity is what we now have, not excess power supply as some people think.

One cannot simply ignore or change the terms of a contract just because it did not turn out to be profitable for him, or that he lost under it. True, in contract law there is such a thing as "changed condition," under which a contract is changed or even terminated because the condition of one party has so deteriorated that to continue with the contract "as is" would work terrible hardship or injustice on that party. For this reason the pertinent provision is also called a hardship clause. Our contracts with the IPPs may contain this clause.

But this is not the condition we see ourselves today in our agreements with the IPPs. Mainly because we foresaw market risk and voluntarily assumed it. Further, it is not deteriorated condition on our part that is causing the hardship under the agreements with the IPPs, but our collective failure to continue the economic momentum the Ramos administration bequeathed us. Our economy did not significantly expand and so we find no need for the added capacity already in place. The intervening Asian economic crisis is only partly to blame.

How then to solve our predicament? On a case to case basis, one way is to reduce the capacity fee given to the IPPs but extend the duration of the agreement. Another is to assure the IPPs operating within a given area that for a number of years they will have no competition in that area, if this is not yet in the contract. Still, another is to give the IPPs or their mother company the right of first refusal should in the future another power facility be put up in their area. This may or may not entail expanding their area itself.

Our lesson here is that in the future, all inherently risky contracts should always contain a "renegotiation" or "escape" clause. This clause will determine when the contract can be altered or even terminated, under what conditions and to what extent, as well as by whom.

—J. RAOUL C. DIZON, 27 Irwin St.,
Filinvest II, Batasan Hills,
Quezon City

More daily 'murders'

ELSA M. Gavino of Pasay City asked in her letter to the editor (PDI, 6/4/02) if the Komisyon ng Wikang Pilipino cares enough to stop the daily "murder" of the national language by many media people. Indeed, it seems it is not doing the work that our people expects it to do for promoting the correct usage and the continuous development of Filipino.

Watching the national language newscasts daily on TV makes me wince at the many mistakes and abuses that newscasters and their news writers make. Examples:

"Limang katao naaksidente"
"Pitong kalalakihan natiklo"
"Mag-utol tepok sa ambush"
"Asawa ni _____ timbog sa Kalookan"

Instead of "*katao,*" why not just "*tao*"? Instead of "*kalalakihan,*" why not just "*lalaki*" for simplicity and to save on time and space? And why use "*tepok*" rather than "*napatay*"? "*Natiklo*" rather than "*nadakip*" or "*nahuli*"? "*Timbog*" rather than "*patay*"?

There are many more examples of gutter language that media people use. I strongly suggest that the Komisyon ng Wikang Pambansa take action.

—FERNANDO TOBIAS, 3750 Sto. Angel Sur, Santa Cruz, Laguna

Inspiring news stories

I READ the article, "When moms become 'addicts to addicts'" featured in your paper on May 12 which shared the inspiring stories of women who have successfully struggled to reclaim their loved ones from drug addiction.

Allow me to express my admiration and sincerest appreciation for your featuring this article because as a woman, a wife and a mother, I can understand how much courage and strength it took them to overcome this challenge in their lives. They have not only brought new hope to those who are in the same situation but they have also proven how the power of love, unity, prayer and faith in God can ease our burden.

—SEN. LOREN LEGARDA-LEVISTE,
Senate majority leader,
6/F GSIS Bldg., Roxas Blvd.,
Pasay City

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Visa blunders cited in 9/11 hijacks

WASHINGTON—The US immigration system suffered "a widespread failure" in processing visa applications for two suspected terrorist pilots believed to be responsible for the Sept. 11 attack on the World Trade Center in New York, according to a new justice department report.

The document, made public here Monday, paints a damning picture of an eerie bureaucratic universe that functions with little visible connection to the world around it, and where conflicting rules abound.

"In our judgment, this was a widespread failure by many individuals" in the US Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), said Glenn Fine, inspector general of the Department of Justice, who conducted the probe at the request of President George W. Bush.

The investigation was ordered in the wake of public outrage in March, when the immigration service notified a flight training school in Florida of its decision to upgrade the visas of Mohammed Atta and Marwan al-Shehhi from "visitor" to "student," six months after their suicide mission.

Bush, who confessed to nearly spilling his coffee upon hearing the story, said the incident had left him "plenty hot," while the US Congress erupted with calls for a break-up of the INS.

Two months later, the 188-page report concluded the visa upgrades might have been approved in violation of existing government regulations, because both Atta and al-Shehhi had left and re-entered the United States at least twice after filing their applications.

"The INS' policy is that an alien who leaves the country while his change of status application is pending abandons that application," the document stated.

But an employee, who processed the applications, did not check the men's exit and entry records because—in seeming contradiction with the policy—existing INS rules did not require him to.

Moreover, it took the INS full 10 months to process the forms that Atta and al-Shehhi filed in September 2000.

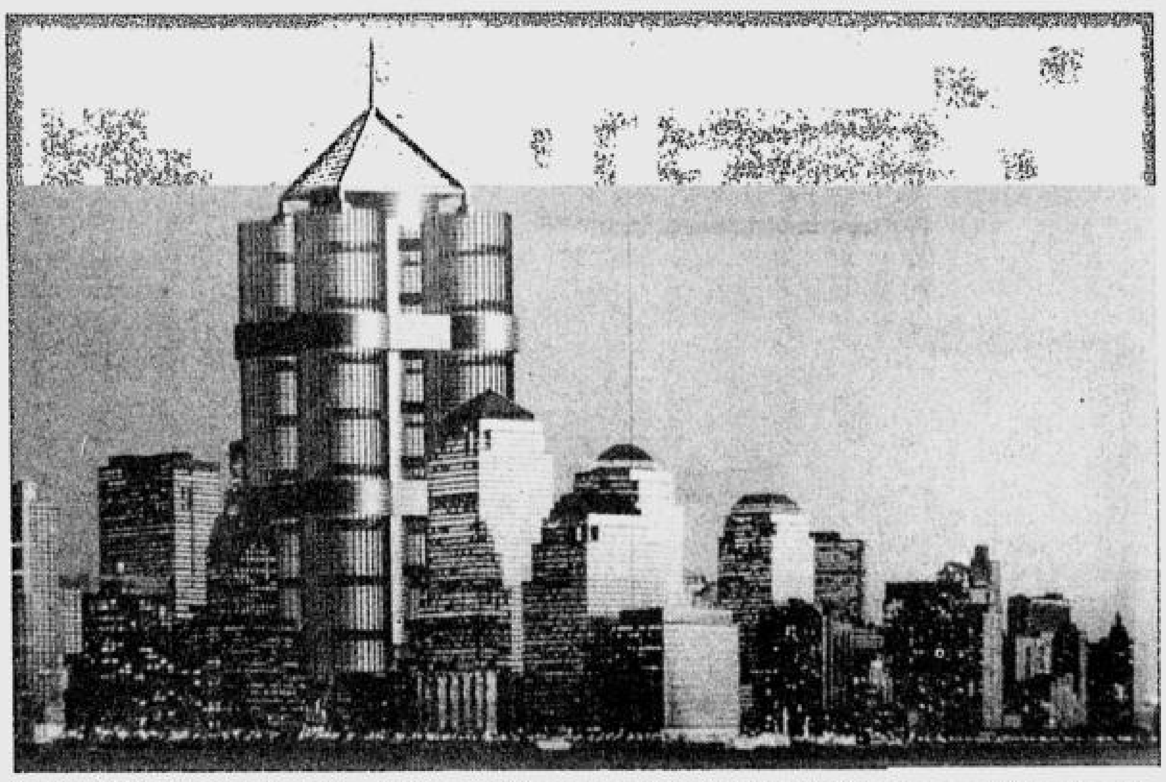
In that period of time, the two suspects not only completed their training at Huffman Aviation International School in Venice, Florida, but shifted their preparations for Sept. 11 into high gear.

Atta is believed to have flown a hijacked passenger plane into the World Trade Center's North Tower while al-Shehhi—into the South Tower.

It took the agency another seven months to mail the forms to Florida, the tragic events in New York and Washington notwithstanding.

And even after the deadly strikes, when the Federal Bureau of Investigation, released the names of all 19 suspected hijackers, including those of Atta and al-Shehhi, the immigration paper mill did not even pause to offer help to investigators.

"No one at the INS assessed whether all information associated with Atta's and al-Shehhi's change of status files—which was information that only the INS had knowledge of—might be useful to the FBI," the report pointed out. *AFP*



PROPOSED NEW WTC—This artist's rendition released May 20 shows the proposed "New World Trade Center 2002" as conceived by Derek Turner, a New Zealand-born trader now based in the Bahamas. His design consists of four towers of 81 floors connected to a 94-floor central tower with a pyramid on top. Including the mast, total height will be 1,750 feet, making it the tallest building in the world. AFP

Suicide bombings could come to US—FBI chief

WASHINGTON—US Federal Bureau of Investigation Director Robert Mueller said Monday he feared suicide bombings that wreaked havoc on Israel could come to the United States.

"I think we will see that in the future, I think it's inevitable," Mueller said in response to a question after a speech to the National Association of District Attorneys meeting in Alexandria, Virginia.

"I wish I could be more optimistic."

Mueller mentioned the difficulty of infiltrating such fanatical groups if they use US territory for their terrorist acts.

An official of the justice department, of which the Federal Bureau of Investigation is a part, said such a warning "is consistent with the patterns we've seen overseas and the information we've been receiving over the past few weeks."

Meanwhile, Washington remained at a moderate state of alert, despite recent warnings by top US officials that post-Sept. 11 attacks on the United States are "almost a certainty."

Days after revelations that the administration had been warned in general terms about the risk of possible passenger plane hijackings prior to the Sept. 11 attacks, US Vice President Dick Cheney warned against fresh terrorist attacks.

"I think that the prospects of a future attack on the US are almost a certainty," Cheney told Fox News Sunday. "It could happen tomorrow, it could happen next week, it could happen next year, but they will keep trying."

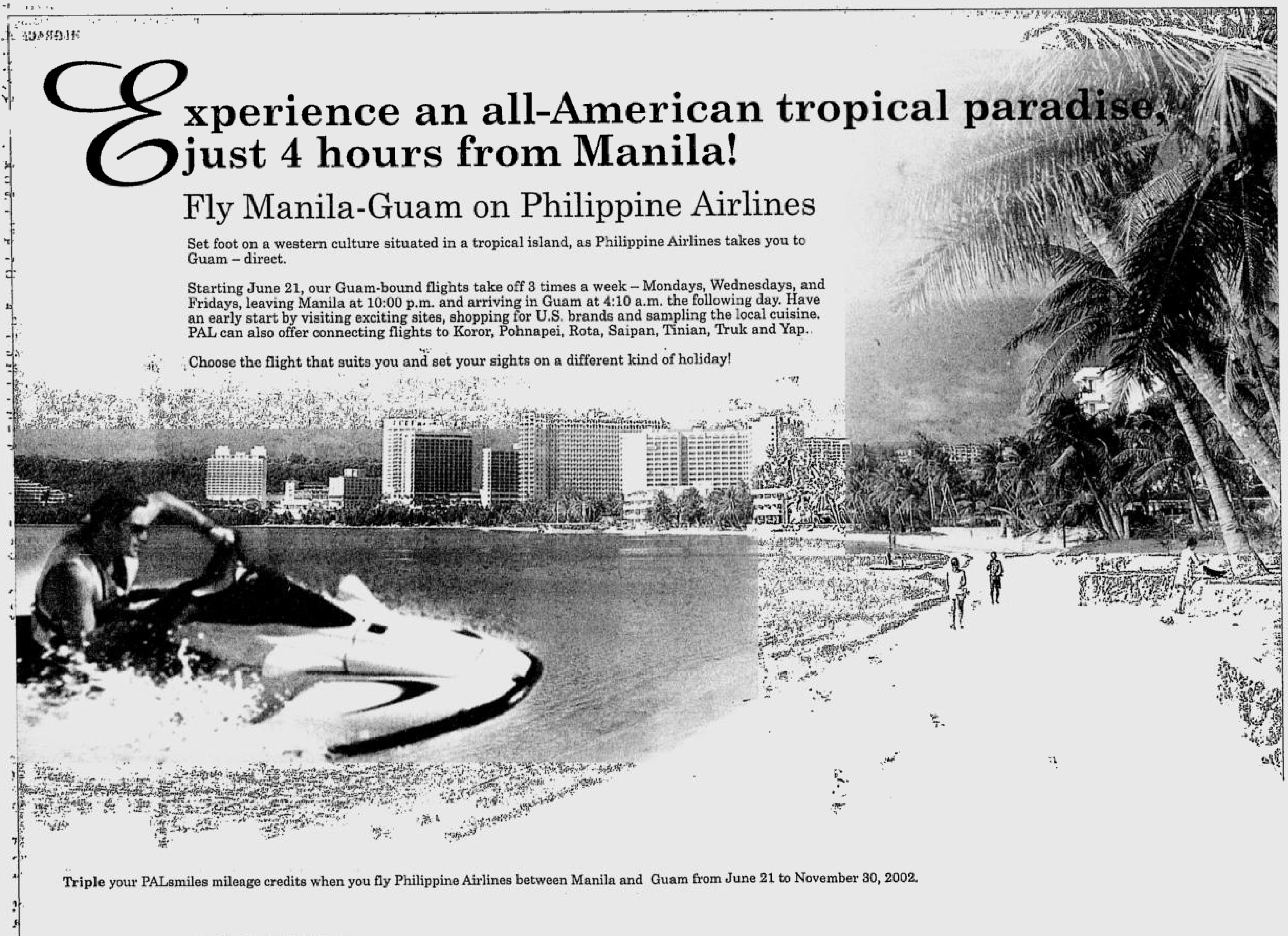
"It probably won't be in the form of hijacked airplanes, and hopefully not at the scale of Sept. 11, but another terrorist attack inside the United States is almost a certainty" in the next three to five years or so, Sen. Bob Graham, chair of the Senate intelligence committee, told NBC television Monday. *AFP*

Asean endorses preventive laws to fight terrorism

KUALA LUMPUR—Southeast Asian security ministers Tuesday endorsed the use of preventive laws to fight terrorism despite failing to agree on a definition of the scourge.

In a joint communiqué issued at the end of a two-day meeting on terrorism, interior ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) said they "unequivocally condemn" acts of terror and underscored the "urgency for a cohesive and united approach."

In an endorsement of the Internal Security Act (Isa) used by Malaysia and Singapore to detain without trial dozens of local militants, they upheld the right of individual Asean countries to "continue pursuing practical preventive measures" to address root causes of terrorism. *AFP*



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Israel faces crisis over growing cost of intifada

JERUSALEM—Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon faced his most serious government crisis yet after ousting ministers from the country's third-largest party who voted Monday against an emergency economic plan.

The austerity package aimed at meeting the cost of the Army's offensive against the Palestinians was rejected in parliament by the influential ultra-Orthodox Shas party, just as Israel announced it would speed up its costly construction of a buffer zone separating it from the West Bank.

Sharon saw his majority in the 120-seat Knesset dwindle to 65 seats after dismissing the four Shas ministers who voted against the plan, while five vice ministers were also sacked and the party's fifth minister resigned following the announcement.

Shas' support was crucial to Sharon's landslide election victory in February 2001 and its entry in the broad national unity government was bitterly negotiated.

"I am not concerned by the political repercussions of this vote and I would rather be on the side of the poor than that of the government," Shas leader and interior minister Eli Yishai was quoted as saying Monday night.

The plan, which aimed to slash the budget deficit by some $2.6 billion by cutting spending and raising taxes, was rejected by 47 votes to 44 and one abstention. Sharon intends to submit it to parliament again Wednesday.

But the package provides for a cut in family allowances, which was originally intended to affect only those households which have no one serving in the Israeli Army, notably the Israeli Arabs and the Orthodox Jews. **AFP**

Iceland walks out of whale summit

SHIMONOSEKI, Japan—A furious Iceland stormed out of the annual world whaling summit on Tuesday and fellow pro-whaler Japan suffered a blow when the International Whaling Commission voted down its bid to expand its catch.

The setbacks underlined ever-deepening divisions in the International Whaling Commission (IWC) as nations eager to whale and those wanting to protect the huge marine mammals jostle for control over the 56-year-old regulatory body.

Japan's bid to take 50 minke whales in nearby offshore waters was rejected on the second day of the five-day annual meeting, held in a former whaling center in southwestern Japan.

Proposals for two new whale sanctuaries were also high on the agenda of the gathering in Shimonoseki, some 825 km southwest of Tokyo.

Iceland's delegates walked out to scattered applause from the floor on Tuesday, a day after the pro-whaling nation's bid for full membership in the whaling commission was rejected.

Big defeat

Monday's vote was a big defeat for pro-whaling nations such as Norway and host Japan, which had hoped to take a crucial step toward a simple majority and shift the balance of power in favor of their campaign to end a ban on commercial whaling.

"This has gone too far. They have gone against our rights," Stefan Asmundsson, head of Iceland's International Whaling Commission (IWC) delegation, told reporters.

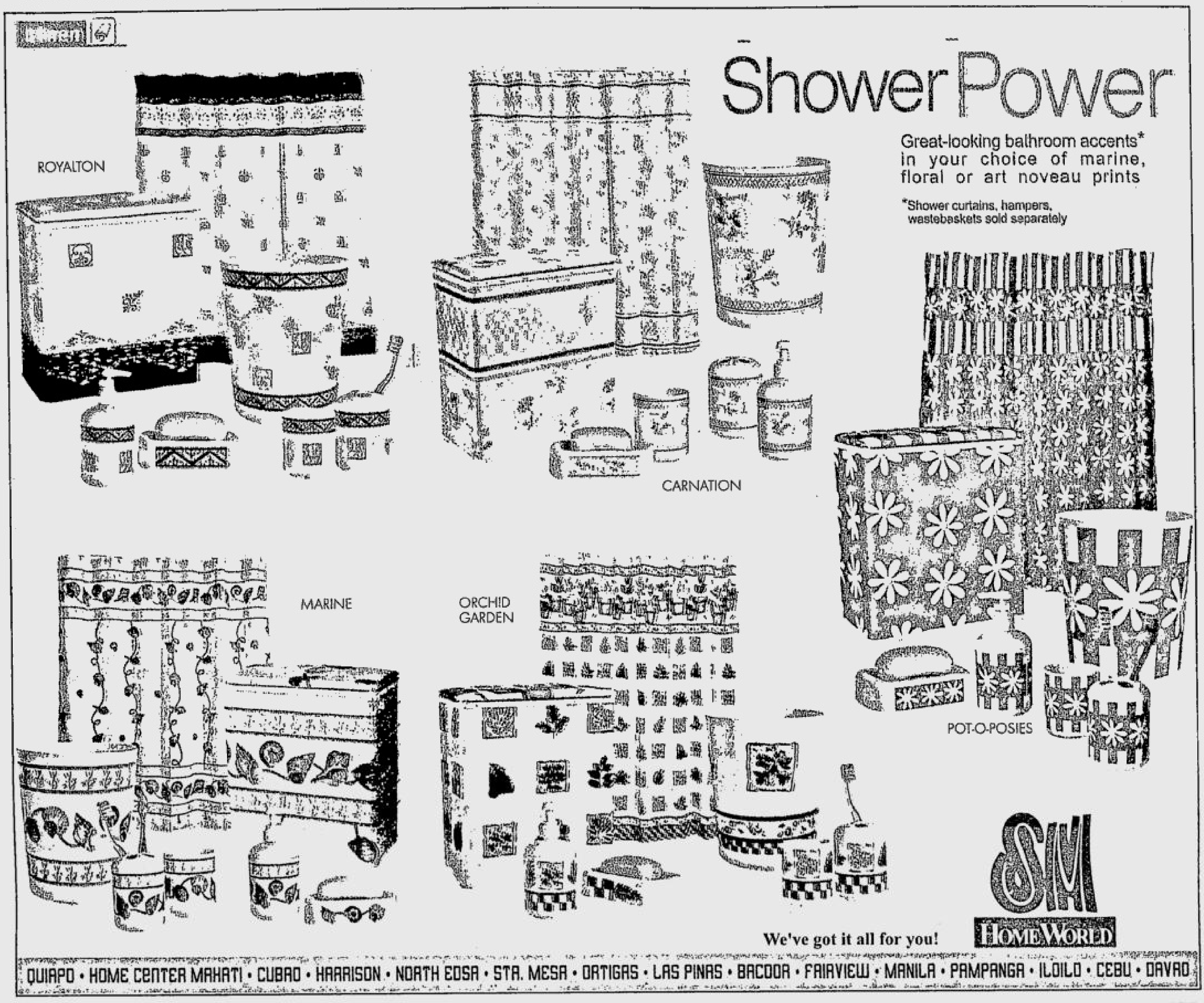
"We can't sit here and appear to be a party to this illegal act," he said, repeating his charge that the United States, a leader of the anti-whaling camp and the country responsible for receiving membership applications, had treated Iceland unfairly.

Divisions run deep in the IWC, which pits whaling nations against those backing environmentalists opposed to what they see as the slaughter of endangered and intelligent mammals.

Like Japan, Iceland believes that abundant whale species are consuming its fish stocks and should be hunted within limits.

Iceland reapplied for membership last year after walking out a decade ago in disgust at the IWC's anti-whaling stance, but it refused to agree to the 1986 commercial whaling moratorium.

An acrimonious vote resulted in its admission only as a non-voting observer. ***Reuters***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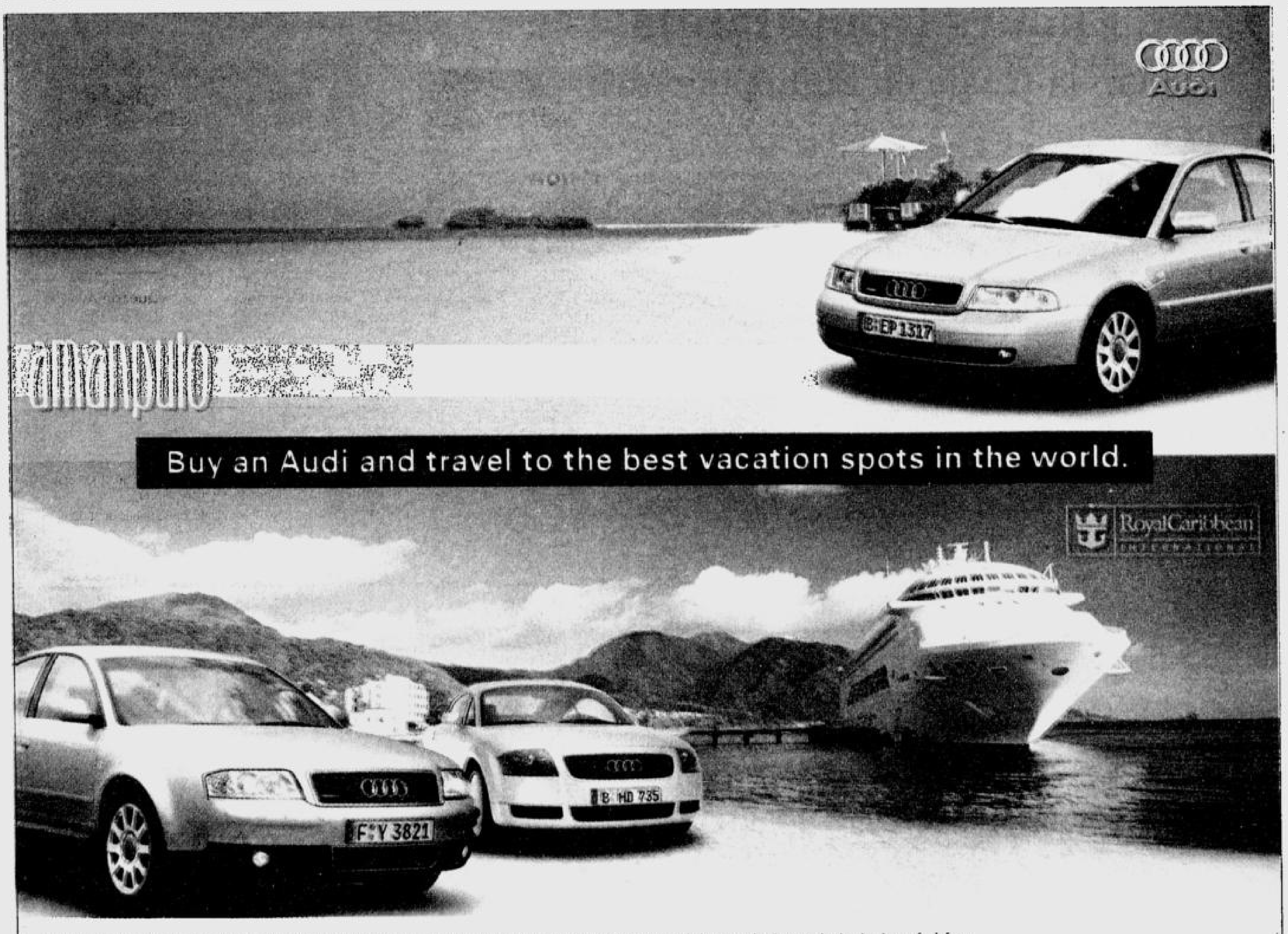
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India, Pakistan exchange heavy fire

SIALKOT, Pakistan—Pakistani and Indian troops traded heavy fire in Kashmir on Tuesday, raising tension between the nuclear-armed neighbors and forcing people living along the border to flee their homes, police and witnesses said.

Police on the two sides reported five deaths. Indian police said three civilians and a soldier were killed in the firing and Pakistan police reported a 10-year old was killed.

The clashes came ahead of a visit by Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee to the disputed Kashmir region on Tuesday to inspect an Army base where more than 30 people were killed in an attack last week that New Delhi blames on Pakistan-based militants.

As in similar incidents in recent days, both sides accused the other of firing first.

"Last night (Monday), Pakistani troops opened mortar and machine gun on our positions in Pallanwala and Khour villages and three civilians and a soldier were killed. Indian troops retaliated," a senior Indian defense official said.

But a Pakistan police official said Indian troops used artillery, mortars and small arms, prompting Pakistani troops to retaliate.

"The Indians opened fire at 6 a.m. today," a police official in the southern Bhimber district of Pakistan-controlled Kashmir said. "It's still going on."

Witnesses in the Pakistani town of Sialkot near the border known as the "working boundary" between Punjab province and India's Jammu and Kashmir state said three people were wounded in overnight Indian firing in the Bijwat and Charwah border sectors.

"They (Indians) are mostly using machine guns. Sometimes they fire mortar bombs," a witness in Charwah said.

He said 11 villages in Bijwat had been evacuated in the wake of intensified firing, now in its fifth day.

Pakistani officials estimate that at least 21 civilians have been killed by Indian firing since Friday and scores wounded.

The Indian official said the Line of Control—the ceasefire line in disputed Kashmir—and the international boundary dividing the south of the state from Pakistan were now calm apart from occasional small arms fire. *Reuters*

Bush: Embargo on Cuba stays

MIAMI—President George W. Bush preached his hardline stance on Cuba to the choir Monday, promising the Cuban-American community here to enforce the US embargo until Havana makes meaningful political and economic reforms.

In a speech marking the 100th anniversary of Cuban independence, Bush challenged Cuba to make planned 2003 National Assembly elections "free and fair."

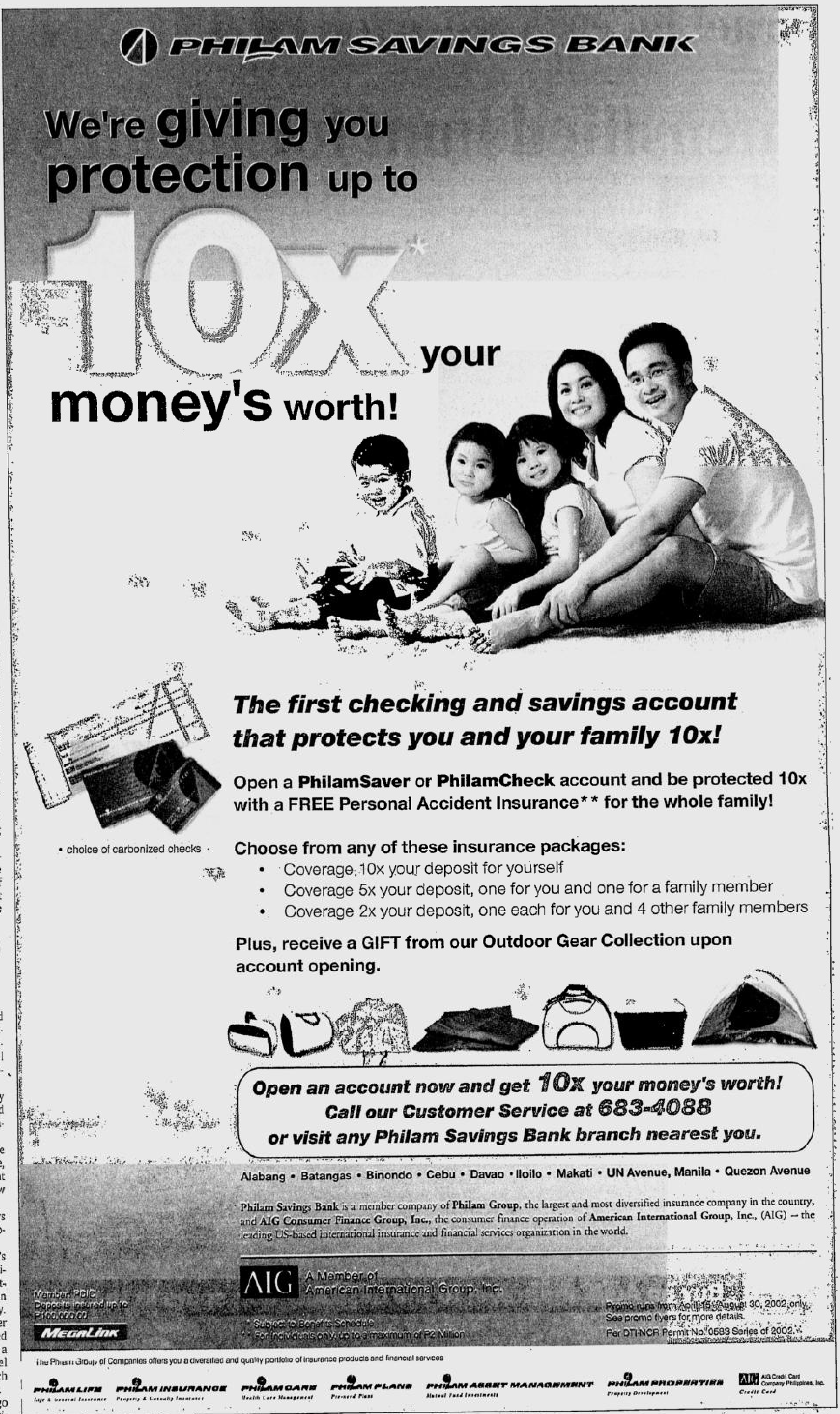
"To make them free and fair, they must give opposition candidates the freedom to organize, assemble and speak," Bush said, adding that Havana must free political prisoners and allow international observers to monitor the vote.

"Then and only then I will explore ways with the United States Congress to ease economic sanctions," he said.

Bush was in Florida courting the state's 700,000-strong, influential and fiercely anti-Castro Cuban-American community, reiterating his stand on the island nation outlined in a speech at the White House earlier Monday.

Bush's speeches came just 72 hours after former US president Jimmy Carter returned from a week-long trip to Cuba—the first by a sitting or former US president since Fidel Castro rose to power in 1959—in which Carter called for an end to the US embargo.

But Bush vowed to enforce the embargo and said that under the leadership of President Fidel Castro, trade would "underwrite tyranny." *AFP*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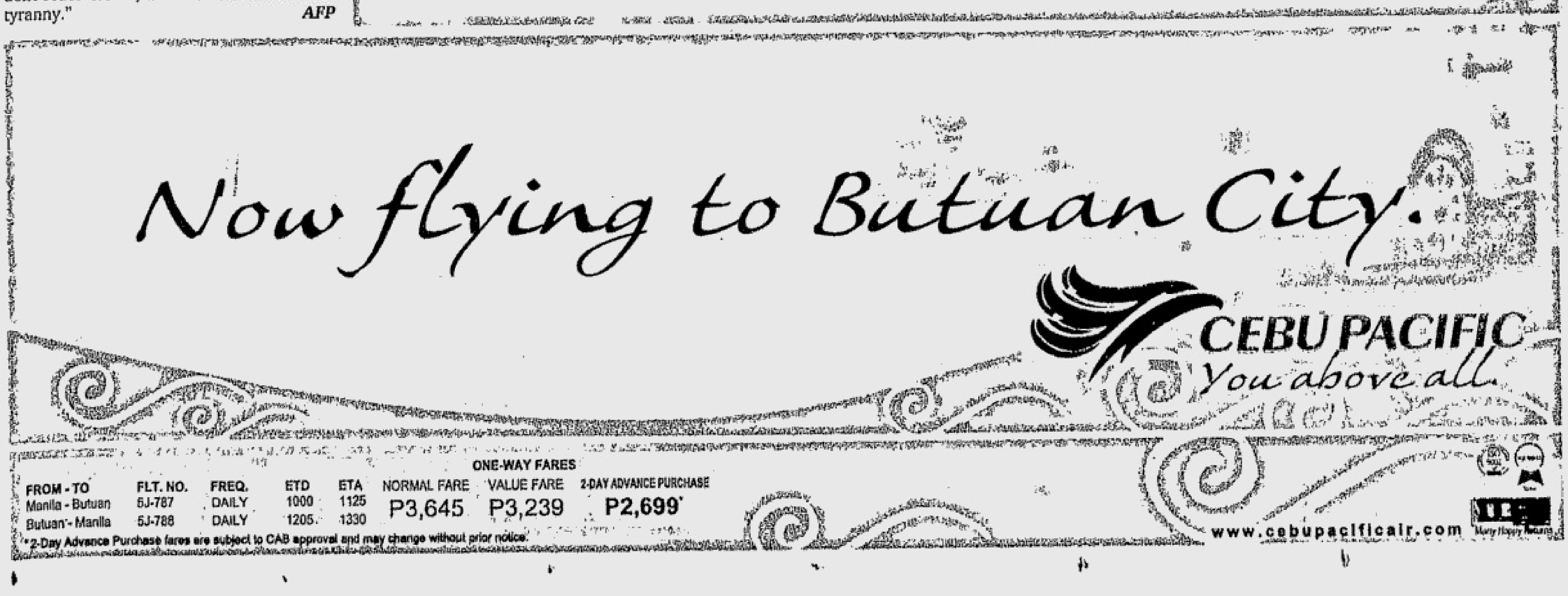
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Intensified hunt for bandits ordered

MENDOZA

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Director General Leandro Mendoza, chief of the Philippine National Police, has ordered an intensified manhunt against Abu Sayyaf bandits in various areas of Western Mindanao.

Mendoza ordered the manhunt after the death on Saturday of Abu Sayyaf leader Sahinon Hapilon here.

The bandit leader, who carried a P150,000 bounty on his head, was on his way to Ipil in Zamboanga. Sibugay, when police operatives spotted him in the provincial bus terminal in Barangay Guiwan.

Hapilon resisted arrest and was accidentally hit by his arresting officer's weapon during a grapple.

Mendoza said he believes that with the military operations against the bandit group in Basilan and Sulu, Abu Sayyaf members have split into several groups and are now hiding in various parts of the Zamboanga peninsula.

Mendoza said Hapilon and his brothers, Isnilon and Bakkal, could be hiding somewhere near Ipil.

He said he believes it was also in Ipil town that the bandit group was keeping American couple Martin and Gracia Burnham and Lamitan nurse Ediborah Yap.

"The Hapilon brothers are holding the couple, Martin and Gracia Burnham. I believe there were some good developments and hopefully, we can rescue the Burnhams," Mendoza said.

Chief Supt. Simeon Dizon, Western Mindanao police director, said the object of the manhunt were the other Hapilon brothers.

"We are intensifying our intelligence gathering to locate them," Dizon said.

Dizon said one of those being snooped at is the Abu Sayyaf's cell in Tungawan, Sibugay province although "it is not that active compared to (the one in) Basilan."

He said the police's effort was fully coordinated with the military so it would become more effective.

Maj. Gen. Glicerio Sua, commander of the Task Force Comet, admitted that the prolonged hostage crisis has made the military restless already.

"We are worried because this is taking its toll on the military's image," Sua said.

He, however, said he remained optimistic that the hostage crisis would soon come to an end and that the Abu Sayyaf would be eliminated.

"We hope to get them all (the hostages) and neutralize the bandits. If possible, we should kill all the bandits," Sua said. ***Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Sa Western Union Dream Home Promotion, pwede kang manalo ng house and lot!

Kumuha ng Western Union Pass Book Certificate sa lahat ng kasaling Western Union agents sa Pilipinas.

Mamimigay ng Western Union Dream Homes mula Dec. 1, 2001 hanggang May 31, 2002**.

Pamantayan ng Western Union - Manalo ng Dream Home Prize Draw Promo Extension:

1. Ang promo extension ay magsisimula sa March 19, 2002 hanggang May 31, 2002.** Lahat ng mga customers ay makakakuha ng Western Union Passbook sa lahat ng kasaling Western Union outlets sa buong bansa magmula sa December 10, 2001.
2. Ang promo ay bukas sa lahat ng Pilipino na may gulang na 18 pataas na nakagawa ng tatlong (3) transaksiyon sa Western Union at natatakan ang kanilang passbook sa bawat transaksiyon.
3. Sa bawat transaksiyon sa Western Union, ang ahente ng Western Union ay didikitan ng sticker ang inyong passbook, isang sticker bawat transaksiyon.
4. Kapag nakumpleto na ang certificate na mayroong tatlong (3) sticker, isulat ang pangalan, tirahan, telephone number at pagkatapos ay pirmahan ang certificate.**
5. Ihulog ang mga certificate sa Western Union collection box.
6. Ang sticker ay hindi maaaring ibigay o ilipat sa iba. Ang ahente ay hindi maaaring tumanggap ng tatlong (3) certificate na mayroong isang (1) sticker bawat isa.
7. Ang Western Union ay walang pananagutan sa mga nawala o ninakaw na passbooks.
8. Deadline sa pagsumite ng mga entries:**
Ang mga entries ay dapat matanggap sa ganap na ika-12 ng tanghali ng March 11, 2002 para sa March 18, 2002 draw. Para sa June 11, 2002 draw, dapat matanggap ang mga entries sa ganap na ika-12 ng tanghali ng May 31, 2002.**
9. Ang mga schedule ng draws:
Ikatlong draw:
March18, 2002
Ikaapat na draw:
June 11, 2002
Lugar kung saan gaganapin ang Grand Draw: DDB Phils. Officer, 11/F JMT Corporate Condominium, ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.
Oras ng Draw: Ika-12 ng tanghali
10. Ang mananalo sa ikatlong draw sa March 18, 2002 ang makatatanggap ng P750,000.00 kasama ang buwis. Ang mananalo ng Grand Draw sa June 11, 2002 ay makatatanggap ng bahay at lupa na may halagang P1,120,000.00 kasama ang buwis o kaya'y halagang katumbas nito.**
11. Ang mga hindi mananalo sa unang draw ay kasali pa rin sa mga susunod na draw.
12. Ang mananalo ay aabisuhan sa loob ng 48 na oras tungkol sa kanilang pinalalunan at ito ay ipapatalastas sa print advertisement at sa pamamagitan ng registered mail.
13. Kung sakaling di sumagot o kinuha ang napanalunang premyo sa loob ng 60 araw mula sa pagkaabiso na siya ay nanalo, ito ay mamawalang saysay na may aprobal ng DTI at muling pipili ng panibagong magwawagi.
14. Ang mananalo ay dapat bigyan ang Western Union ng karapatan upang maipatalastas sa publiko, kasama na ang print advertisement.
15. Ang Western Union ay magbabayad ng karampatang buwis na 20% para sa premyong lalampas sa P 10,000.00

** - Inaprobahan ng DTI-NCR

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0669, series of 2001

WESTERN UNION | MONEY TRANSFER

Ang pinakamabilis na paraan para magpadala at tumanggap ng pera sa buong mundo.

Roco order hurting Red Cross budget

DAVAO CITY—An official of the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) here said Education Secretary Raul Roco's order last year stopping the mandatory collection of fees for the Red Cross during enrolment is hurting the aid organization.

Xenia Pacumbaba, PNRC-Davao chapter administrator, said the parents of students refused to pay the PNRC fee even as the Department of Education (DepEd) authorized its collection after enrolment.

ROCO

She said they proposed to the DepEd a new scheme where they would ask parents to pay a yearly P35 PNRC membership fee for their children and that the payment will qualify them to claim an insurance of P12,000 in case of death in case of an accident or disability.

The PNRC membership fee would also allow the students to avail of a P5,000 medical reimbursement in case of accident and a separate P5,000 burial benefit if the victim dies.

Parents can also claim P12,000 in benefits in case the student is murdered or assaulted and avail of P150 a day in hospitalization benefits in case the student meets an accident or gets ill due to natural causes.

But Pacumbaba said the payment for the membership fee would not be mandatory, in accordance with the DepEd order.

Pacumbaba said they hope adding insurance to its traditional membership fee collection might entice parents to pay PNRC membership fees.

But Roco, who was here Monday to speak at the 3rd National Conference of the Philippine Association of Private Schools Colleges Universities (PAPSCU), said he has instructed teachers not to require students to pay PNRC membership and other fees during enrolment, adding that no student should be rejected enrolment because of lack of money.

He said the PNRC should not depend on their collections from students because it is only voluntary.

"The PNRC should go back to their noble cause—that is to rely on volunteerism," said Roco.

Anthony S. Allada, Mindanao Bureau

Poachers ambush boat, kill boy

TUGUEGARAO CITY—A 14-year-old boy was killed while another person was wounded on Saturday when armed men, believed to be timber poachers, fired at a motorized boat in seas off Baguio Point in Gattaran town, a police report said Tuesday.

The report said the boat MV Francis, where members of the Baguio Point Multipurpose Cooperative in Bolos Point, Gattaran were riding in, was ambushed by at least eight men.

The men abducted three other passengers of the boat after the shooting but two of them later escaped, the report said.

In a report to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Peñablanca town, Dionisio Quelendero, Baguio Point village chair, identified the fatality as Francis Bayangan and the wounded as Fred Ofoangan.

Cooperative members were on their way to Peñablanca to secure their resource use permit from the DENR when they were attacked.

Quelendero told DENR officials that before the attack, eight suspected timber poachers talked with cooperative members and officials demanding that they follow the price set by the poachers in marketing rattan and other products in the province.

He said cooperative officials rejected the poachers' proposal. ***Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole of Luzon will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming widespread rains over the Eastern and Western sections. The rest of the country will be mostly cloudy.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	HI32° Lo 25°
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 22° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 23°
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30° Lo 24°
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 24°
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 33° Lo 23°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 25°
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 25°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 25°
Roxas	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 26°
Cebu	Mostly Cloudy	Hi 34° Lo 26°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 33° Lo 26°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Mostly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 25°
Davao	Mostly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 25°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/05/22/02

ROUNDUP

Magat river revival

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—More than 100 bicycle enthusiasts here released on Sunday 40,000 *tilapia* fingerlings along the Magat River to revive the river as a main source of livelihood of residents. The activity seeks to increase awareness in protecting the Magat River, a vital waterway in Cagayan Valley, said Councilor Arnel Hernandez, spokesperson of the Bikers' Club in Bambang town. ***Ben Moses Ebreo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Shabu seller nabbed

BAGUIO CITY—Police arrested a suspected illegal drug pusher in a buy-bust operation here on Wednesday. Reports said Mark Dumeg, 23, was caught selling 3.9 grams of shabu worth P7,449 to an undercover agent of the Criminal Investigation Detection Group. The NBI found Dumeg's urine sample positive for illegal drug use. Police also arrested the city's 10th most wanted person on Thursday for possession of illegal drugs. Constancio Abella, 41, was arrested here after eluding the police for a year. Abella was caught selling 1.1 grams of shabu worth P1,980 in a buy-bust operation here. ***Monette Bernabe and Lezlee Santillan, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Vizcaya festival

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—Officials and residents of Nueva Vizcaya opened on Sunday the weeklong Panagyaman (Thanksgiving) Festival as part of the 163rd founding anniversary of the province. This year's celebration features an agro-industrial fair of the province's native products, medical and dental missions, a kite flying show and an indigenous people's day.

Ben Moses Ebreo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

New police chief

CALAPAN CITY—Sernior Supt. Voltaire M. Calsado has replaced Supt. Alejandro F. Gutierrez as the provincial police director of Oriental Mindoro. Calsado graduated from the Philippine Military Academy. He said he was giving priority to the war on illegal drugs. He vowed to help promote peace and order in the province. Gutierrez served the province for eight months.

Donna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Mining advocacy

CALAPAN CITY—Oriental Mindoro joined the other provinces in the country affected by mining operations during the national conference on mining issues recently held in Baguio City. Oriental Mindoro's major contribution to mining advocacy is the passing of the 25-year moratorium on mining. Orlando Maliwanag represented the government sector while Shirley Fronda and Fr. Edu Gariguez represented civil society. They showed to other participants that one way to succeed in mining advocacy is by consolidating the partnership between civil society and the local government. The three have been invited to attend the International Conference on Mining in Bali, Indonesia, on May 24-26 and the preparatory committee meeting for the World Summit on Sustainable Development on May 27 to June 7.

Donna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

'Lechon' in Guinness?

BALAYAN, Batangas—The municipal government of this town and the Hermandad San Juan Bautista Organization Inc. have launched a campaign to put the town's Parada ng Lechon (Parade of Roast Pigs) in the Guinness Book of World Records as the biggest parade of its kind in the world. The parade, held every June 24, highlights Balayan's annual celebration of the Feast of St. John the Baptist. For the first time this year, all barangays in Balayan and private and public schools will be invited to join the activity. Balayan Mayor Manny Fronda and Filate Maningat, Hermandad president for 2002, are inviting everyone to join and witness this year's *Parada ng Lechon*.

NPA rebels slain

TWO New People's Army rebels were slain and one was wounded in two separate encounters with government troops in Sitio Cabungahan, Barangay Busokbusokan in San Narciso, Quezon and Sitio Bangkal, Barangay Malamba, Marilog district, Davao City on Monday and Sunday. The slain suspected rebel in Quezon was identified only as "Lawin" while the captured rebel was identified as Gerry Espina alias "Dante." Army soldiers were conducting operations at 5:55 a.m. when they encountered an undetermined number of rebels in Quezon. A firefight broke out. A civilian was reported wounded in the encounter. No casualty was reported on the government side. Soldiers recovered two M16 rifles. In Davao City, Lt. Col. Eduardo del Rosario, chief of the 73rd Infantry Battalion, said his men clashed with about 10 rebels under a certain Commander Pipoy of the NPA Front Committee 52. Del Rosario said his men recovered the body of a slain rebel, a revolver and a handheld ICOM radio. ***Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

CRIME GANG BUSTED

5 in Germans' robbery-abduction nabbed

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—Police last week arrested five men who were suspected of robbing and abducting a German couple and their driver near the border of Ifugao and Mt. Province.

Chief Supt. George Aliño, Cordillera police director, identified the suspects as Clary Agcon, 29, a former Army soldier; Rodentor Butic, 21; Vicente Baguiwan, 29; Joey Sannadan, 32; and Jim Dayagon, 30, all of Ifugao and Kalinga.

Police are hunting five other members of the group, including their suspected leader, Robert Dag-o, of Kiangan, Ifugao.

The four others were Amor Gubiangan and Roy Alcanzarin, both of Tabuk, Kalinga; a certain Leonard of Kiangan; and a certain Tommy, a member of the Tulgao tribe of Kalinga.

The 10 were suspects in the abduction of Jose Melo and his wife Claudia on April 21 while the two were on their way to the tourist town of Sagada in Mt. Province. The couple's driver was also abducted but was released in Baguio City four days later.

Aliño said the arrest of the suspects also solved the April 13 murder of Leopoldo Paredes, a driver of a Kia Besta van rented by them in Tuguegarao City.

The suspects were using the stolen green van when they abducted the German couple.

Police said they recovered Paredes' body in Enrile, Cagayan, where the suspects abandoned the van on April 25.

The police filed charges of serious illegal detention against the suspects in a Benguet court and car theft with homicide in a Cagayan court.

Mayor Tito Candelario of Banaue, Ifugao, in a statement, said no Banaue resident took part in the abduction.

"That would be like shooting our own foot," he said. Candelario is also lamenting the decision of an international consultancy firm advising foreign travelers to avoid going to Banaue and Sagada, both popular tourist destinations.

The 10 suspects are said to be members of robbery and holdup groups operating in Ifugao and Kalinga.

The statement from the Cordillera police in Camp Dangwa here said the Melo couple and their driver, Eduardo Sinco, were abducted along Mt. Polis an hour after they checked out at the Banaue Hotel, where they stayed for two days.

Police said the suspects took P30,000 from the couple and P20,000 from Claudia's automated teller machine card.

The Melo couple was taken to Kalinga and later released in Baguio City on April 25. On the same day, the couple left for Germany.

It was not known if the police would also file car theft charges against the five suspects because the Melos' rented car has yet to be found.

In a letter to the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency, the Pacific Strategies and Assessments, a Manila and Hong Kong-based consultancy firm, advised foreign travelers to avoid Banaue and Sagada.

But Candelario said the advisory would have a "tremendous effect" on tourism in Banaue.

"About 80 percent of our income is tourism-related and many of our tourists here are foreigners," he said.

"We have asked the police to beef up their forces not only in central Banaue but also in the Mt. Polis area," he said.

He said they have been asking the police to put up a detachment in the Mt. Polis area to prevent robbery and holdup incidents. ***Frank Cimatu and Jovelyn Reyes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Town oozing with cash in bank, but can't spend it

By Romy G. Amarado
Contributor

VALENCIA, Negros Oriental—This geothermal-rich mountain town, dubbed as Negros Island's "Little Baguio," has over a hundred million pesos in savings from its share of royalty paid by the Philippine National Oil Co. (PNOC).

The trouble is, the town does not have the liberty to spend the amount for any other purpose except power subsidy.

Valencia is getting between P14 million to P17 million a year in royalty from PNOC, which is mandated by Republic Act (RA) 7160 or the Local Government Code of 1991.

Under the law, PNOC has to allocate one percent of its gross sales annually to the local government units (LGUS) where the geothermal power is "utilized or developed."

The code also provides that 20 percent of the royalty goes to the province, 45 percent goes to the town, and 35 percent to the barangay.

PNOC has geothermal power plants in Barangays Malaunay, Puhagan and Caidiocan, generating about 190 megawatts.

But Section 294 of RA 7160 also provides that 80 percent of the royalty "shall be applied solely to lower the cost of electricity in the local government unit where such energy is located." Only 20 percent can be used for development projects.

"This is our big dilemma. Because of the provision, we cannot use the money for other projects needed by our municipality," Valencia Mayor Rodolfo Gonzales Jr. told the INQUIRER.

P101 million

As of April 30, 2002, Valencia has accumulated P101 million in surplus from the 80-percent share of the royalty that it has been receiving from the PNOC since 1998.

The amount is on top of the P18 million to P19 million in annual subsidy that the municipal government has provided to some 4,000 households and commercial establishments in the town which each receive a monthly subsidy of P400.

Valencia, located 11 km west of Dumaguete City, has only a population of 25,000. The town's main source of income is farming and flower growing.

Councilor Diodoro Olasiman said the subsidy was granted based on a survey which showed that the average electric consumption of every household in Valencia is P400. Commercial establishments, he added, get the same subsidy since there are so far no big businesses in Valencia.

Barangay Malaunay, Puhagan and Caidiocan have also accumulated huge amounts of money from their royalty share. Like the municipal government, they also could not touch the fund.

As of April 30 this year, Malaunay has P37 million, Puhagan, P40 million, and Caidiocan, P11 million in bank deposits.

Subsidy

On top of the subsidy given by the municipality to their residents, these barangays also extend subsidy to their residents. In Malaunay, each household receives P275; P325, for Puhagan; and P175 for Caidiocan.

"We are confused on what to do so that our money can be used to help our people," Malaunay barangay chair Teofilo Villegas said.

So far as the share or the provincial government is concerned, there was no surplus to speak of since it only receives 20 percent and is subsidizing the electricity costs of more than one million consumers province-wide. The province gets around P4 million every quarter.

Rolando Obañana, the municipal treasurer, however, revealed that while the town's royalty share sleeps in the bank, the municipal government has been using interest earnings, amounting to about P4 million per annum, for other projects.

Loans

The latest of these projects was providing interest-free loans to residents who have no electric connections yet.

Obañana said that there are still about 500 households in Valencia, which do not have electricity. Each of these households can avail of P5,000 interest-free loans, payable in five years, to get electrical connection.

Mayor Gonzales said there is only one hope for the town to be able to use its surplus royalty: Get Congress to amend the law that prohibits LGUs from using their royalty for other purposes.

In the meantime, Gonzales said, he is also going to ask the Department of Energy if there is a way for the town to use its big surplus.

Slain journalist buried

PAGADIAN CITY—Slain journalist Edgardo Damalerio was buried Monday afternoon with colleagues reiterating their demand for justice and calling on the ranks of media practitioners here "to unite now to deal squarely with these attacks" on the profession.

Romy Francisco of the Mindanao Gold Star Daily and president of the Tri-Media Club, said the time for journalists to band together is now to deal with threats to journalists' lives.

Damalerio, 33, served as managing editor of the local weekly Zamboanga Scribe and did commentaries for state-run radio station dxKP as a contractual talent for three years until the time of his death. He also wrote for the Mindanao Gold Star Daily.

Wearing black armbands, local media practitioners joined Damalerio's family in necrological services at the Church of Christ of Latter-Day Saints here Monday. ***Hernan P. dela Cruz and Ryan D. Rosauro, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

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INQUIRER Northern Luzon
Editor Jun Bandayrel ⊕ Bureau Chief Rolando B. Fernandez

When faucets run dry in RP's summer capital

By Maurice Malanes
Baguio City

ANN Loreto Tamayo, a local editor, sighs that only gas has been coming out of her faucet since December. But she continues to pay at least P148 monthly to the Baguio Water District (BWD).

For practically paying for gas instead of water, Tamayo says she should have let the BWD cut off altogether the water pipe to her home at Mirador Hill near the famed Baguio Lourdes Grotto.

"But it's going to be a hassle again to get the BWD reconnect your pipe because aside from the long wait, you also have to pay quite a sum for the reconnection if water becomes available," she says.

Tamayo's woe is not isolated. Practically almost all residents in this mountain summer capital are complaining of dry faucets.

The crisis has prompted Councilor Richard Cariño to file a resolution calling for a "Baguio Water Summit." The summit, which has yet to be scheduled, seeks to draw constructive proposals from various sectors to address the water crisis in the city.

Deficit

The BWD, which distributes water to most of the city residents, can generate an average of only 25,000 cubic meters of water daily this dry season. This volume is way below the required need of the almost 300,000 city population, which is at least 90,000 cu.m. daily, says Teresita de Guzman, BWD general manager.

"And we are only talking about the regular population," she says. "It is unfortunate that when our water tables (fall to) critical levels during summer, the demand for water rises because of the influx of visitors, convention delegates and tourists."

Given its current facilities, the BWD can't do anything but ration water. Those who used to have water thrice or four times a week can now have water only once a week or every 10 days, says De Guzman.

The likes of Tamayo, who live in high areas, don't get any water at all, so they have to order from private water delivery outfits. But water is rationed even during the rainy season.

With its existing facilities, the BWD can generate only 40,000 cu.m. daily, even when water tables rise during the wet season, says De Guzman.

Upgrading

The agency recognizes that part of the problem is its outdated water distribution system.

The BWD and the Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA) actually entered into a contract on April 23, 1997 for a P582.806-million project that seeks to expand, rehabilitate and upgrade the city's water distribution system.

Funding for the project comes from the Australian Agency for International Development or (AusAID). The financial package is mostly loan--P264.88-million regular loan and P186.034-million soft loan--and a portion of it (P131.892 million) as grant.

The expansion and rehabilitation project, which the BWD seeks to finish in December 2003, aims to increase five times the BWD's current capacity of 25,000 cu.m. per day. The BWD has already drilled 12 new wells, repaired eight old wells and built reservoirs.

By August, it will start to replace all of the city's pipes, covering 200 kilometers. "So please bear with us if we are going to dig the streets again," De Guzman says.

He says the new project will install new or upgrade "supply lines" (reservoirs) and "strategic elevated discharge lines" (big water tanks), to which pipes will be connected to distribute water by means of gravity.

Aside from the BWD-LWUA expansion and rehabilitation project is what is called the "Bulk Water Supply Project."

The BWD will implement the project through a joint venture agreement with a private consortium, which will tap and develop a water source outside Baguio.

After satisfying the water requirements of the source municipality or municipalities, the consortium will sell to the BWD 50,000 cu.m. of potable water per day and deliver this volume to designated strategic elevated points within a 7-km radius from City Hall.

With the expansion-rehabilitation and bulk water projects, the BWD targets to increase its system capacity from 25,000 to 118,000 cu.m. per day.

The bulk water project, however, is still on paper. The first bidding, done in 1999, was declared a failure because the consortium could not meet its financial commitments, citing the deteriorating peso-dollar exchange rate.

A re-bidding with new terms of reference will be done before the year ends, De Guzman says.

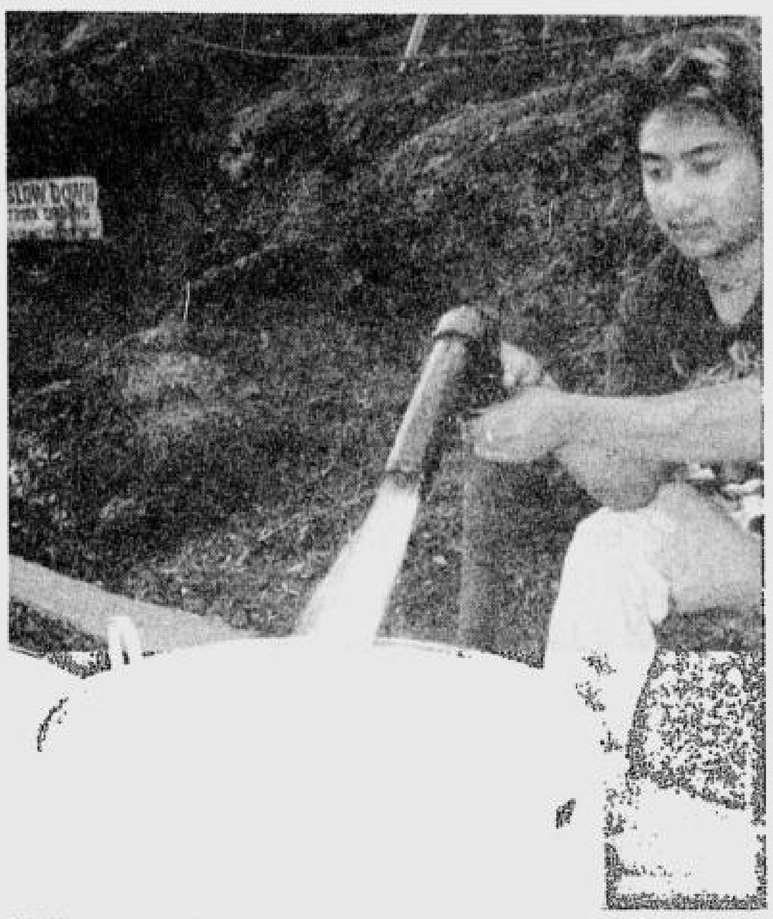
Threatened watersheds

The El Niño weather phenomenon has become a handy alibi, which some officials point to as complicating the water crisis.

But aside from an outdated water distribution system and the lack of good water policy, such as how to regulate the construction of deep wells by private individuals, the El Niño cannot be blamed for yet another threat to the city's water resources--degraded watersheds.

A wide area of the city's four major watersheds is inhabited, says Joel Wadwadan, BWD watershed management chief.

The 336-hectare Busol watershed, or whatever is left of it, for example, has to be protected. But the BWD, says Wadwadan, can only do so much because many of the inhabitants are ancestral land claimants.



AMID a water shortage, water delivery trucks make a killing in supplying water from Baguio City's springs. TOOTS SOBERANO

The Busol watershed, particularly the 214 hectares of land that belong to nearby La Trinidad town, has practically been occupied.

Half of the 112 hectares of Busol area, which belongs to Baguio, still has pine and other vegetative cover. Thanks, he says, to the tree-planting projects of non-government groups led by the Baguio Regreening Movement.

The BWD has fenced off two other watersheds—the nine-hectare Buyog and the 11-hectare Camp 8 (Kennon). But the BWD, says Wadwadan, remains helpless in protecting the 3,000-hectare Mt. Sto. Tomas watershed where hundreds of upland folk reside and farm, transforming remaining forests into *sayote* fields.

The more than 500-hectare pine-clad Camp John Hay resort, says Wadwadan, is also a vital watershed. Now managed by the realty giant Fil-Estate, Camp John Hay has its own water source which, he says, the resort has yet to share with the city.

But Camp John Hay Development Corp. (CJHDevCo) says it continues to supply water to surrounding communities and will continue to do so until the BWD shall have been able to supply the communities' needs.

This means that CJHDevCo will be the sole user of water from within the camp, which it badly needs to keep its golf course lawn green even during summer.

Crisis keeps water delivery, bottled water business flourishing

By Maurice Malanes
Baguio City

WHAT keeps the water delivery and bottled water businesses thriving in Baguio City? What else, but the water crisis.

"The city's inability to provide water to its residents is what keeps the water business here flourishing," says Lily Enriquez-Cruz, marketing manager of Mountain King, a company that sells purified drinking water.

The first to invest on a water treatment plant here in 1995, Mountain King has since been supplying purified drinking water to government agencies, hospitals, hotels, restaurants, supermarkets and households.

It produces 706 gallons of purified drinking water daily through a series of stringent processes that the Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD) regularly monitors, says Enriquez-Cruz.

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WATER delivery trucks are now familiar sights in Baguio City. TOOTS SOBERANO

With P10 per gallon, the company generates a daily gross income of P7,060 or P2.5 million yearly.

And drinking water is not the only income-earner. Mountain King also sells water purifying gadgets and drinking water dispensers.

Following in the footsteps of Mountain King, other entrepreneurs applied for local franchises of Manila-based drinking water bottling companies such as Agua Vida.

Emma Corpuz, manager of an Agua Vida outlet, says she sells an average of 300 gallons daily during peak seasons, which translates to P3,000 in daily gross sales. Most of her customers are students because her store is within a college belt.

In fact, after the downward trend in the gold-mining industry, Benguet Corp., a mining firm, found another gold mine in water.

The company now sells bottled purified water trademarked Danum (the local term for water), which the company draws from springs within its mining claims over which it has acquired exclusive water rights.

Aside from the bottled water businesses are the water delivery service outfits. In 2000, the city had 34 major water delivery outfits, and many must have been added by now, says Enriquez-Cruz.

The oldest is Dipasupil Water Service, which has been selling since 1972 bulk water drawn from a 725-foot deep well within the Dipasupil property on Magsaysay Avenue.

The firm has nine water trucks that can carry eight to 30 drums of water. It charges customers P20 to P25 per drum.

Pines City Water Delivery, however, has no deep well where it can get its supply. It gets water from another firm, Cordillera Water Delivery, at P7 per drum and sells it at P22 per drum.

But deep wells are not the only sources for water delivery firms. Springs found along Kennon Road are the main sources of firms like Mat-an's Water Delivery and Dickmann's Water Delivery.

Many water delivery firms are considered family enterprises and operated by relatives.

Dickmann's Water Delivery, Willwood Water Delivery, Wood Spring Water Delivery and Grandma's Water Delivery are owned by the Dicman family.

The Baguio Water Disrict (BWD), which distributes metered water to most residents under a monthly billing system, does not want to be outdone. It also sells and delivers bulk water to residents.

Because of the rapid expansion of the water delivery and water drilling businesses, the BWD and the city government now want to regulate these.

Albert Arenas, assistant BWD general manager, warned that if the water delivery and drilling businesses go unregulated, the city would have to get water from other parts of the Cordillera.

The residents, however, have their own ways of coping with the crisis: Reduce, reuse and recycle.

Grace, a sales clerk, said she usually consumes three pails of water for her daily bath, but because of the water crisis, she has to make do with one pail.

"The water we used in washing and rinsing our clothes would be reused in cleaning the toilet or in watering the plants so we can save on water," a resident from Barangay Loakan said. ***With reports from Ayvi Alcain, Jennifer Santos, Catherine de la Chica and Katrina Quijarro***

What makes an NPA retiree? Ask Ka Juaning

By Jo Clemente
Contributor

WHAT difference does a revolution make? For Juanito Rivera, 67, one of the founders of the communist New People's Army, it is all of six splits, nine plenums and an endless stream of contradictions wrapped in 23 long years in the underground movement.

In 1991, after being released from prison, Ka Juaning decided it was time to go home..Home to him is Barangay Sta. Rita in Capas, Tarlac, where he now tends farm and family.

This place, too, is regarded as the homeground of the NPA.

In many ways, Ka Juaning may be considered a retiree, minus the corresponding pension given to a war veteran. But how does one become a veteran from a guerrilla war that is still evolving? What makes an NPA retiree?

Ka Juaning bears no illusion that the mission he set out to achieve when he joined the underground movement in 1968 will bear fruit in his lifetime. No, not yet anyway, he says.

But the 23 years he spent with the Communist Party of the Philippines as a member of its Politburo (Political Bureau) and its executive committee and as an NPA guerrilla, carry an imprint that makes him an extra ordinary retiree.

From a *teniente del barrio* organizing fellow peasants against the hacienda system in Capas in the 1960s, Ka Juaning went underground and joined the Hukbong Mapagpalaya ng Bayan (HMB), the armed group of the old Partido Komunista ng Pilipinas (PKP). That was in November 1968, and with him were five other *teniente del barrio* of Capas and nearby Concepcion town.

A few months after, a team of nine cadres, including Ka Juaning, broke off from the HMB and formed the NPA to become the armed group of the newly formed CPP, which also broke off from the PKP.

Ka Juaning says they broke off from the Sumulong-led PKP-HMB because he refused to expand and make the party national in scope and insisted on confining the movement to select areas of Central Luzon, particularly around the United States military bases in Clark and Subic.

That was Ka Juaning's first major resolve in a string of conflicts and contradictions that would color his life as a rebel.

In the years to come, Ka Juaning's involvement with the underground would come in a heavy mix of practical and theoretical exercises that would draw the political and military course of the party.

For instance, he says, lengthy discussions were done when strategies were being mapped out for the procurement of firearms through the MV Andrea and the MV Karagatan.

"We got M-14s before the military did," he says. And the operation was carried out by cadres, mostly coming from Central Luzon, who posed as fisherfolk.

Ka Juaning says the manifestation of an armed struggle is its firepower. Then, he claims that there were so much more guerrillas than weapons. Thus, the project.

In their 1981 assessment, Ka Juaning claims the number of firearms and NPA regulars was almost at par at 25,000.

He also recalls details of how Victor Corpus and two others defected from the Philippine Military Academy into the communist fold.

From Central Luzon, Ka Juaning expanded his organizing work in Bicol and the small strides that his group was able to achieve with rice farmers of Central Luzon they tried to replicate this with the coconut farmers of the region.

"*Hindi ako nagsisisi* (I have no regrets)," he says of the long years he spent with the underground. We gained something for the masses, he adds as he describes evolving relationship between landowners and their tenants, and the eventual break up of haciendas—from the *kasama* system to the "70-30 land tenancy" and the "45-55 crop sharing."

In Bicol, the sharing between plantation owners and the coconut farmers was reversed to favor the latter at a ratio of 2:1 of the harvest.

The ways of war are strewn with a host of contradictions, resulting in major setbacks that inflicted deep wounds in the heart of the revolution.

To the massive purging in the ranks of the CPP-NPA where members were suspected to have been influenced by or of being deep penetration agents themselves, Ka Juaning repeats what he says was his position then: "*Tayo ang nagsaing, tayo ang nag-eduka, ganyan ba tayo kanipis para* ma-infiltrate (We were the ones who cooked, taught. Were our ranks thin enough to be infiltrated)?"

While he recognizes the reality of the infiltration, Ka Juaning reiterates that only those with blood debts to the people should be given corresponding punishment.

To the succeeding splits that confronted the organization and the challenge posed on the very principle employed to carry out the revolution, Ka Juaning reaffirms: "*Tama ang rebolusyon. Mayroon lang di tamang pagdadala ng rebolusyon* (The revolution is correct. There were misgivings in leadership)."

Asked about the difference between cadres of his generation and that of today, he says, "*Mas Marxista sila noon* (they were more Marxist before)," referring to the depth and time they had devoted in acquiring theoretical wisdom.

To the NDF-GRP peace talks, Ka Juaning asks in poetic Kapampangan: "*Nanu ya wari itsura ing katahimikan* (What does peace look like)?"

JUANITO Rivera: NPA veteran. JO CLEMENTE

Finally, to criticisms about Jose Ma. Sison's remote leadership of the CPP, Ka Juaning explains: "The Philippines is an archipelago. Unlike other countries where a simple line draws the boundaries, a person can simply cross it and escape those pursuing him. If Joma is in the country, the military will always be in hot pursuit because he is the leader and Joma will spend more time moving from place to place to avoid the dragnet."

"Where he (Sison) is right now, he can concentrate on very important and crucial concerns and can react as quickly if need be."

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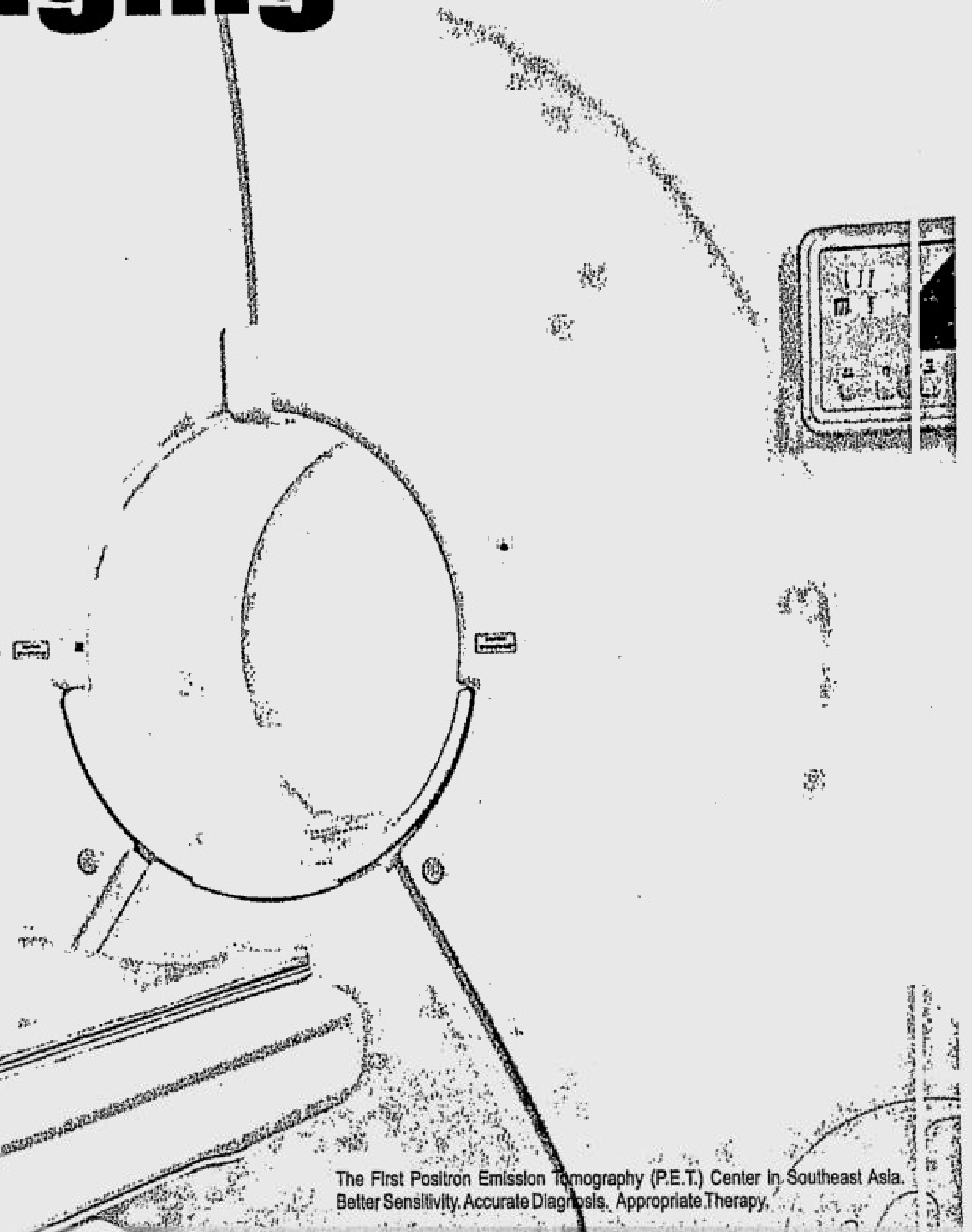

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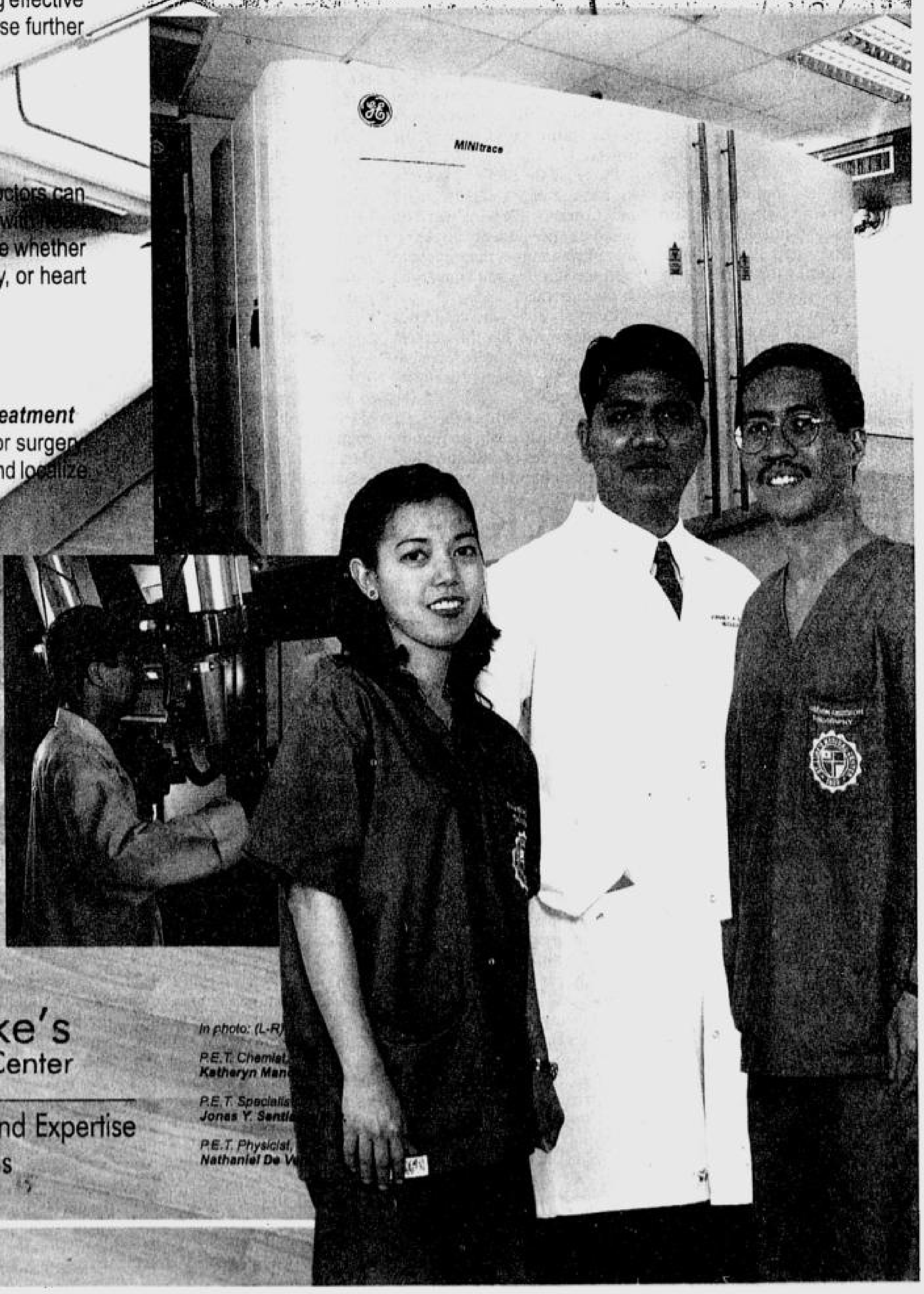

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‘Spurious signal’ trips Luzon power lines

From page A1

mittees wrapped up hearings on the controversial purchased power adjustment fee.

Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. told reporters the Luzon-wide blackout started at 10:57 a.m., when the 230-kilovolt Biñan-Sta. Rosa transmission line in Laguna tripped.

The National Transmission Corp. (Transco) said the tripping occurred because of a “spurious signal" sent by Transco's power line carrier (PLC). Asisclo Gonzaga, Transco president and National Power Corp. chief operating officer, said in a briefing yesterday that the signal erroneously “ordered a breaker to open" which caused the Biñan-Sta. Rosa line to trip.

In household terms, a breaker is the switch that closes and opens an electrical circuit and at the same time turns a light bulb on and off.

Gonzaga said the PLC was a communications system that signals or tells breakers to open in case of an imbalance between power demand and power generation. "The PLC then should not have signaled the breaker in the Manila Electric Co.-owned Sta. Rosa substation to open," he said.

Because of the tripped line, Perez said, “adjoining transmission lines overloaded and caused more trippings and eventually a system blackout." The other transmission lines that fell included Calaca-Dasmariñas, Mexico-Hermosa, Malolos-Hermosa, Malolos-San Jose, Mexico-Duhat, Duhat-Balintawak, San Jose-Dolores and Botolan-Olongapo.

Energy officials said that as of 8 p.m., or some nine hours after the first line tripped, power was back in about 75 percent of the Luzon grid.

“We have restored power in portions of Metro Manila, Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna, Quezon, Pampanga and other parts of the Manila Electric Co.'s franchise area," Perez said. He added that electricity was also back in Benguet, Kalinga, Apayao, Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, Pangasinan, La Union, Isabela, Cagayan, Tarlac, Zambales and Nueva Ecija.

Perez said full restoration of power was expected by midnight.

Hydro power

Napocor put the 200-mw Angat hydropower plant online to jumpstart the system back to normal.

Other plants transmitting power again were those in Kalayaan, Laguna (200 mw); Casecnan, Nueva Vizcaya (60 mw); Calaca (110 mw) and Sta. Rita, Batangas (80-mw); Bakun, Benguet (25 mw); Bauang, La Union (40 mw); and Navotas (150 mw).

Perez ruled out sabotage, saying Napocor was in control of the situation. Napocor president Ronald Quilala said the same thing. “We want to tell the public there is no sabotage, this is just one of those system abnormalities that is now under control," he said.

Philippine National Police Director General Leandro Mendoza said Napocor officials had assured him that the problem was "technical" in nature, as opposed to possible sabotage. Police were on the streets “to help the people affected by this blackout," he added.

The Luzon power grid failed in January this year, and in April and November last year. All three outages were also blamed on tripping overhead transmission lines. Luzon hosts the bulk of the country's industrial capacity and contributes about two-thirds of the country's gross domestic product.

Earlier, Napocor spokesperson Dennis Gana urged Luzon residents to “remain calm—we're on top of the situation and we'll give you updates."

He also said that Napocor, which operates most of the country's power plants, was “trying to isolate the problem. It's apparently a line fault problem, not the generators." Napocor says it loses P10 million ($202,000) every hour during a system-wide blackout.

At a noon news conference, Perez had vowed a “100-percent" restoration of power in six hours, or at 6:00 p.m. “We want to make sure that commuters would be able to go home" before dark, he had said then. He said the utility's main priority was to restore electricity to key installations like the Manila airport and hospitals.

At the Calabarzon industrial belt south of Manila, private export processing zones switched to their own emergency power to limit the damage and keep the assembly lines running.

“All are on generators and are fully operational," Mike Macapagal, an official of the Calamba Premiere Industrial Park said. The park hosts key semiconductor factories including a unit of South Korea's Samsung group that employs more than 3,000 people.

Faulty equipment

Gonzaga said the PLC was no longer reliable and that Transco had been planning to replace this with a microwave, digital system. Transco has been described as a spinoff firm of Napocor, although it has yet to be fully independent.

“We have yet to know why the PLC sent the wrong signal," he said. “We are meeting with Meralco to determine what exactly happened."

Napocor said restoration work began 30 minutes after the brownout. Operations of the hydroelectric plants of Angat in Bulacan, Magat in Isabela and Binga in Benguet were in full blast to fill the void.

Power was restored in Baguio at 1 p.m. and in Pangasinan at 1:45 p.m. Ilocos Sur suffered only a 30-minute blackout while power in some parts of Nueva Ecija and Tarlac was restored at past 1 p.m.

In Pangasinan, officials of Mirant Philippines Corp., operator of the Sual coal-fired power plant in Sual town and the Pagbilao coal-fired plant in Pagbilao, Quezon, said their plants did not cause the system-wide blackout.

In a statement, Mirant officials said their two power plants were running when a problem in the grid caused the plants to shut down. ***With reports from Yolanda Fuertes, Gia Damaso-Dumo, Villamor Visaya Jr. and Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; Carmela Reyes, Tonette Orejas, Allan Macatuno and Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk; Floreño G. Solmirano and Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; and Reuters, AFP***

Power-less in a nation of sweatshops

From page A1

finals game between the Los Angeles Lakers and Sacramento Kings.

“Could this be some kind of retaliation for our protests against the PPA?" demanded one housewife in UP Village, Quezon City, referring to the controversial purchased power adjustment fees.

The question found echoes elsewhere in the metropolis.

“Is this the National Power-less Corporation's punishment to the people for opposing the PPA?" said housewife Rosalie Tengco, 45, of Samson Road, Caloocan City.

Laborer Rolly Sandoval, also a resident of Caloocan, said: “The Napocor is doing this because of public outrage against the PPA."

‘Terror tactic’

Text messaging went into full gear within minutes of the start of the blackout, to the effect that it was a “terror tactic" being unleashed by power companies.

A Quezon City resident wondered whether the outage indicated another coup plan in the making.

In the streets, traffic lights went dead, causing congestion and bottlenecks. Stranded commuters lined Taft Avenue, Rizal Avenue, Quezon Boulevard, C.M. Recto Avenue, España and other major arteries.

Traffic was particularly snarled on MacArthur Highway in Malabon leading to Monumento in Caloocan, on T.M. Kalaw and Pablo Ocampo streets in Manila, and Buendia Avenue in Pasay City.

Police authorities also reported heavy traffic in major intersections along Marcos Highway in Marikina City, Ortigas Avenue in Pasig City and San Juan, and Shaw Boulevard in Mandaluyong City.

Director General Leandro Mendoza, chief of the Philippine National Police, said Napocor officials had assured him that the problem was “technical" in nature, as opposed to possible sabotage.

He said police were out in the streets “to help the people affected by this blackout."

LRT, MRT

A cloudy sky, a light drizzle and a soft breeze served as small consolation for commuters, mostly those taking the Light Rail Transit and the Metro Rail Transit systems.

Commuters lined a huge stretch of Rizal Avenue and its extension in Caloocan and Manila after the blackout paralyzed LRT operations.

Some of them were already in the coaches and had to walk from the middle of the rail tracks back to the stations and then to the streets.

Twelve of the LRT's 18 stations are located in Manila. Jeepneys and Tamaraw FX vans were no match for the suddenly huge volume of commuters that emerged from the stations and converged on the sidewalks.

Some of those who could not get a ride or who, like the workers in the Ortigas area, were forced to take a break, streamed into the shopping malls.

A number of stores enjoyed brisk sales, with cashiers reporting long queues of customers.

THIRD major power outage in Luzon in less than six months strands LRT passengers. ROMEO GACAD, AFP

But rail transit authorities have apparently learned from experience.

Light Rail Transit Authority administrator Teodoro Cruz Jr. said in a phone interview that, unlike what happened during the Luzon-wide power outage in January, the LRTA was immediately informed that the blackout covered the whole of Southern Luzon.

“We shut down operations at 11 a.m. and we were able to inform people right away that the trains won't be running. We tried to minimize inconvenience to the passengers while we issued ticket refunds," he said.

Cruz said 10,000 passengers had to be evacuated from stalled trains. He said LRT personnel on board the trains took care of this without much difficulty.

The Edsa MRT 3 was also quick to receive information about the blackout and so was able to immediately inform its passengers about it.

Edsa MRT 3 operations center officer Ruel Sosing said in another phone interview that six trains were caught between stations and thousands of passengers were also evacuated.

He said past blackouts have trained Edsa MRT 3 personnel in tackling similar situations.

Both railway systems cannot run when there is an extensive blackout because they are connected to the Manila Electric Co.'s main grid.

The Edsa MRT 3 restored half-line operations (from North Avenue to Shaw Boulevard) at 3:30 p.m., and the rest of the line (from Shaw Boulevard to Taft Avenue), at 4:25 p.m.

The LRT restored full line operations (from Monumento to Baclaran) at 3:29 p.m.

High heat

Pagasa reported yesterday's highest temperature at 30.6 degrees Celsius, recorded at 10:30 a.m. or minutes before the power went out.

At the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, general manager Edgardo Manda said airport workers and passengers had to contend with the sweltering heat inside the terminals and waiting areas.

But the blackout did not disrupt international and domestic flights at any of the airports in Luzon, including the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport in Pampanga and the Loakan airport in Baguio City.

“None of the flights was delayed and none was canceled because of the major power interruption," he said.

Manda said the emergency power at the airports, including the Naia, was insufficient. He said the air conditioning was “rendered useless."

At the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel in Pasay City, personnel were quick to extinguish a burning generator.

FO3 Renato Recto of the Pasay Fire Department told the INQUIRER that the generator could not cope with the hotel's huge power requirements and bogged down just after noon.

At the nearby Pasay City jail, inmates had to endure the sweltering heat that was made more unbearable by their squalid, overcrowded cells.

Disruptions

Government offices such as the Manila City Hall sent their employees home around 3 p.m. But a “skeletal force" was to stay, according to its public information office.

The City Council's session and the hearings in over 100 regional and metropolitan trial courts were abruptly terminated.

Transactions such as business licensing, marriage licensing and tax payments had to be conducted under emergency rechargeable lamps, which were quickly drained, and candlelight.

At the Western Police District, only the radio room and the office of the director had emergency electricity.

Policemen from the theft and robbery, homicide, general assignments, drug enforcement and other units had to use candles and endure mosquitoes.

Private companies as well as schools holding summer classes also declared an abbreviated workday after learning that it would take a while before power could be restored.

Office work and factory operations in the cities of Marikina, Pasig and Mandaluyong and the town of San Juan were also disrupted.

Anxiety hit a number of residents who immediately went to ATM booths to withdraw cash but discovered that these were off-line.

“My car is almost out of gas. I don't have cash and my ATM is off-line so I'll just wait in the mall until everything returns to normal. Hopefully that won't take long," said Ronald de la Cruz, a young bank employee from Pasig. ***With reports from Abigail L. Ho, Norman Bordadora, Tina Santos, Nelson F. Flores, Donna S. Cueto, Mylene Francisco, AFP***

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17 senators back 3-year moratorium on PPA charge

From page A1

chair Rep. Alipio Badelles called for a voting on House Bill No. 4741.

For more than an hour, Rosales and other House members fought vigorously to stop the voting by saying that the bill had not been thoroughly deliberated upon and should not be approved.

HB 4741 seeks to suspend Napocor's PPA until the Energy Regulatory Commission approves the universal charge called for under the Epira. The bill also seeks to limit to 40 centavos per kwh the amount of universal charge the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. may recover.

“This is a legislative response to address the clamor of the consuming public on the high electricity rates due to the PPA," Badelles said.

Four rounds

The hearing, attended by at least 30 of the 84 committee members, resulted into four rounds of voting.

But Badelles and Representatives Prospero Nograles (Davao City), Monico Puentevella (Bacolod City), Abdullah Dimaporo (Lanao del Norte) pushed for the bill's approval.

Nograles proposed that the committee approve the bill even if members wanted to include more amendments.

“But we don't even know the amendments," Suplico said.

“We haven't even discussed these amendments," Rosales added.

After a short recess, Nograles proposed “win-win solution."

Nograles proposed that they “provisionally approve" the bill and then tackle the “contentious issues" in an executive session “so that we can tackle these issues intelligently."

“Let's move forward and let's give this to the plenary," Puentebella said.

Dimaporo said that “it's best to go on to the plenary and call back the resource persons" during the plenary debate when they can give answers through the bill sponsors.

Villanueva appealed that members be given more time to consider the bill.

Suplico, a member of the minority, tried to stop the voting by asking to adjourn the hearing. Rosales seconded the motion but Badelles asked committee members to vote on the motion for adjournment.

Badelles announced that nine voted for adjournment but 11 voted against it.

Disbelief

Badelles called for a second voting on the adjournment motion after some members expressed disbelief on the result.

"Motion is defeated," Badelles declared, without mentioning the result of the second raising of hands on Suplico's motion.

“It is time to divide the house," Badelles declared.

“This is already an illegal hearing!" Suplico said as many of the 30 members, who attended the hearing, were seen fidgeting in their seats.

Ignoring the uproar, Badelles asked those who wanted to approve HB 4741 to stand up. A number of representatives stood up. He then called on those who oppose the approval to stand up.

Representatives Veloso, Suplico, Jaraula, Cynthia Villar (Las Piñas), Abraham Kahlil Mitra (Palawan), Del de Guzman (Marikina), Beltran and Cibac Rep. Joel Villanueva stood up.

The walkout momentarily hushed the hearing but Badelles went on to enforce the result. He said 15 voted for the approval of the measure.

“When we called on those who oppose the approval to stand up, unfortunately nobody stood up. Therefore, following democratic processes, House Bill 4741 is hereby approved," Badelles concluded.

Invalid

Rosales said she would question the committee approval.

“It can be questioned if it is considered invalid.

That was highly questionable because it was already session (time) and the committee proceeded with the voting," she said.

The policy is to terminate the hearings when sessions start at 4 p.m., according to Rosales.

Rosales said the committee's determination to approve the bill was suspicious because the committee went ahead with the hearing despite the Luzon-wide brownout.

All other committee hearings in the afternoon were canceled in view of the brownout.

“It is really a railroading," Rosales said.

Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr. left as the voting was taking place but said he did not walkout.

Pichay, however, said the committee should not have approved the bill until all questions from House members were answered and various sectors heard.

Prudence

“I think that in such a controversial bill, we should exercise prudence because it is a very sensitive issue," Pichay said.

But Pichay said the approval of the bill by the committee could no longer be nullified.

In the Senate, the consolidated bill was attached to a joint report submitted by the committees on energy and on ways and means.

The bill, principally authored by Sen. Renato Cayetano, has been certified as urgent by Malacañang.

Under the proposed amendment, households will not be subject to the imposition of Napocor's PPA until after three years from the effectivity of the proposed law.

Commercial and industrial users will be subject to the imposition of Napocor's PPA until after one year.

For households consuming not more than 300 kwh a month, the component of the universal charge corresponding to the stranded costs of Napocor's eligible contracts will be imposed as follows:

- The first 50 kilowatt hours will be exempt.
- The next 50 kilowatt hours will pay 21 centavos per kwh.
- For consumption above 100 kwh, 42 centavos will be imposed per kwh for stranded costs of Napocor's eligible contracts.

Cayetano said the Senate could not force the Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) to reduce its PPA rate from its own two independent power producers because it was privately owned.

But Cayetano said the refinancing scheme for Meralco's loans should be looked into to enable Meralco to reduce its PPA rate.

Sen. Edgardo Angara said some minority senators would file a substitute bill so that the inputs of the opposition would be included. Angara did not sign the bill.

“The substitute version of the opposition will offer a better deal for electricity users and consumers," Angara told reporters.

He said that the opposition would not accept the universal charge being offered in the consolidated bill as the amount could still be cut by half.

Angara said that the minority could accept the three-year moratorium being offered by the Cayetano bill but added that “we can do better than that."

He said the ideal PPA reduction was from the current rate of P3.24 to between P1.20 per and P1.40 per kwh.

Hidden

In the House, Rep. Teodoro Locsin Jr. (Makati City) complained that the hearing was hidden from other members.

“The bill was not just railroaded with a host of unanswered questions and objections about it left hanging. No sir. It was done on the sly—with members of the committee hiding its (venue) from (other members)," Locsin said.

Locsin said all members of the House were entitled to attend the hearings even if they were not members of a specific committee.

“Yet, despite a diligent search, the hearing could not be located," Locsin said.

Locsin said members of the House were led to believe that all committee hearings had been canceled.

No youth registered in 2 Cotabato villages

From page A1

was reported low, except for Bicol, according to officials of the Commission on Elections, which supervised the registration.

"I was puzzled over this event," said Kasan Usi, the city's acting election officer, who visited various registration centers. He said no one among the more than 100 adolescents aged 15 to 17 years old showed up at the centers in Poblacions 5 and 6.

During the SK list-up last December, Usi said no one registered in Poblacion 5. "Now, it appears to be the same," he said, adding that he already sought an explanation from the local SK chair and village officials.

The youth's indifference toward the SK and the absence of visible benefits that youngsters get in joining the activity appeared to be the main reasons for their absence, Usi said.

"They are not interested," said Ramon Chua, chair of Poblacion 5. "I have been reminding them to come out and register, to no avail," he added.

In Manila, a Comelec official, who asked not to be named, raised doubts that the poll body can attain even half of its target of three million youths for the special registration.

Barangays and youth commissions have been tapped to spread the word about the registration, the official said, but the Comelec apparently forgot that today's youth communicate mostly through text messages, "gimmick centers" and malls.

"We may have used the wrong medium for the message," the official said.

Brownout

Comelec Commissioner Resurreccion Borra blamed the low turnout on other reasons, including the Luzon-wide brownout before noon yesterday.

"It could affect the registration somehow," he said, noting that young people would avoid the "oppressive" heat at the registration centers.

Sherly San Gabriel, 16, of Poblacion 5 here, said she was not aware that a registration for SK election was taking place in the village.

She said SK leaders and local officials should have gone to every house to convince the youth to participate. "In some areas, registrants are even herded, but here, there's no activity," she said in Pilipino.

"What benefit do we get in return if we come to register?" asked Antonio Alejo, another resident of Poblacion 5. "I will not register, it's a waste of time and effort," he added.

BORRA

"We better work and earn a living than spend time going to the registration centers . . . We will not be arrested or detained anyway," added Alejo, who sells fried bananas along the sidewalk of Magallanes Street.

Usi said the registration committee of Barangay Poblacion 6 had yet to welcome a registrant as of noon yesterday. In other villages, the biggest number of registrants was about 20.

Baguio, Benguet

In Baguio City and Benguet, turnout was also "very low," with some precincts reporting no registrants.

Julius Torres, local poll chair, said the result might not even reach 25 percent of the 32,985 projected number of voters. "It is very, very low," he said, noting that one barangay in Baguio reported only one registrant.

As of 2 p.m. yesterday, many precincts had zero attendance, he said.

Torres said there were low turnouts in other Cordillera provinces. He attributed these to the location of precincts in the region. "Many have complained that the precincts are far," he said.

Also, the unexpected heavy downpour in Baguio and other parts of the region discouraged registrants to go to the precincts, he said.

"The ongoing summer classes also affected the registration. Many of the youths failed to go to their precincts because they had classes to attend," he added.

Isabela

In Ilagan, Isabela, only a 30-percent turnout was reported.

Erwin Valerozo, provincial election supervisor, attributed the low turnout to the special registration held in December last year where many youth voters registered.

Asked if the Comelec would again be criticized for the seeming failure in the registration, Commissioner Borra said they have done all they could.

"What can we do? It's no longer an issue of information dissemination, (but) the response of the youth in this special SK registration," he said.

Earlier, Borra said the poor performance of past SK representatives could have caused their peers to lose interest in the mechanism for youth representation in the barangay councils.

Bicol

In Bicol, however, the Comelec reported a very high turnout, crediting this to the initiatives of its local media.

Zacarias Zarragoza, Comelec regional director, said that as of yesterday morning, a total of 9,426 new voters had listed up in Bicol's six provinces and seven cities.

Thus, the total number of youth registrants, including those that registered in December, had reached 108,766, which, Zarragoza said, was way over the 90-percent target of the poll body. Camarines Norte posted the biggest increase in new registrants at 19.6 percent from its figure in December; Albay, 14 percent; Camarines Sur and Catanduanes, 12 percent each; and Camarines Sur, 6 percent.

Registration reports from Masbate and Sorsogon were delayed, partly because of the power outage yesterday.

In Laguna, the Comelec noted a peaceful registration and expected a good turnout.

In Palawan, the results of the registration will be known today, according to officials. ***With reports from Jovelyn Reyes, Jennifer Santos, Ayvi Alcain and Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; Roly Embile, Romulo O. Ponte and Geraldford P. Ticke, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; and Armand Nocum in Manila***

Enron guys lose shirts, pants again

From page A1

The issue will feature profiles of the men and their experiences with the former energy giant that filed for bankruptcy last December after questions about the company's accounting practices surfaced.

"Enron made me bare it all," said Mark Zebrowitz, who worked as a production manager for Enron Oil & Gas in India. "That's all they left me with."

In return for the men's willingness to show off what normally stays under wraps, Playgirl offered "more money than they made on their stock options," magazine editor Michele Zipp said.

Playgirl's offer came April 1, a week after Playboy magazine invited current and former female workers to pose for a "Women of Enron" issue.

About three dozen men applied, and the magazine chose five from among the applicants.

"We thought, 'Why not help these guys who were down on their luck try something different for a career, even if it is a day of fun,'" Zipp said.

Hundreds of ex-female employees of Enron also contacted Playboy magazine to find out more about becoming a nude model.

The Chicago-based magazine said it was interested in the female employees because they had a story to tell.

Candidates who wanted to pose for Playboy had to meet certain requirements. They must be 18 years or older. They must also provide a photo ID, a shot in a two-piece swimsuit, and a document indicating their employment at Enron. *AP*

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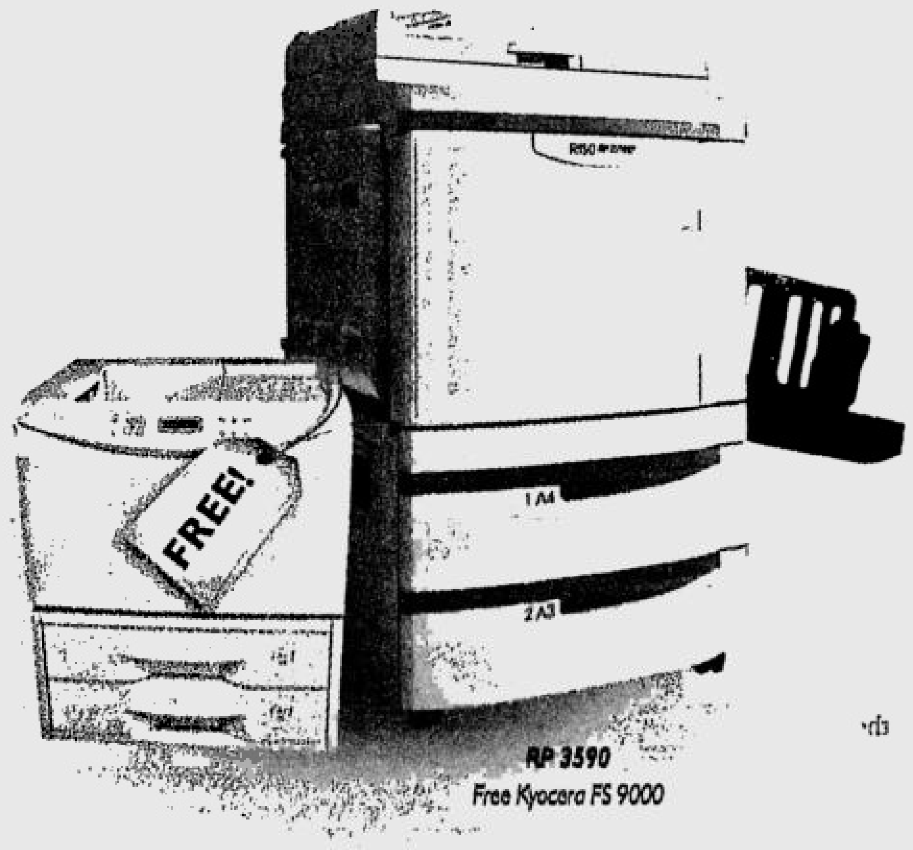

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Jerome leads RP Am qualifiers at E. Ridge

By Jong Arcano

JEROME Delariarte got his share of heartaches from the vicious Dye course of Eagle Ridge yesterday.

But all he wanted was to see his name in the 32-man match play pairings of the Philippine amateur golf championship regardless if he winds up at the top or at the bottom.

Despite two double-bogeys, however, Delariarte still managed to get the top seeding as a roller-coaster round of three-over-par 75 got him past fellow national training pool member Marlon Dizon by a mere stroke.

Dizon came through with one of the low rounds of the day, a 74 for a 36-hole total of 145 to join the rest of the favorites in the tournament proper today where play shifts to match.

History-seeking Angelo Que turned in a second straight 77 to become qualifier No. 11 while Southeast Asian Games champ Juvic Pagunsan rebounded with a 77 to make it safely to the next round.

The tourney is sponsored by DHL Philippines and Wide.Wide World Express with the support of Mitsubishi Motors and the Philippine Sports Commission.

"It was more of getting ourselves mentally ready for the match play battles. There was really no worry about getting over par," said Delariarte, who lost to Que in the final two years ago at Alabang.

The hardwork begins for Que, who is eyeing to become only the second player after Golem Silverio in the 52-year history of the event to win three years in a row, when he plays Vicente Tuason in his first match play assignment.

The crucial day is tomorrow when both the second round and the quarterfinals are set to be played.

For his first match, Delariarte will tackle Raymond Sangil, a member of the Southwoods talent pool like him. Sangil was the last guy to make it with an 83-166.

Dizon, winner of the DHL Open earlier this year at Canlubang, battles former jungolf standout Jason Gironella, Pagunsan takes on longshot Bobby Celestino in matches where the country's top guns are expected to breeze through.

The first round of match play competitions will be played at the Faldo course. The second and third rounds will be played at the Dye, the semifinals at Faldo and the 36-hole title showdown at the Dye side.

Also making it were former champion Artemio Murakami and jungolfers Judson Eustaquio and Carl Santos Ocampo.

Malacañang nixes resetting of Palaro

By Marc Anthony Reyes

MALACAÑANG has turned down the request of the Department of Education regional directors to move the 2002 Palarong Pambansa a week later, saying President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo Arroyo will only be available to act as guest of honor on June 3.

President Arroyo, who ruled that the Games should push through after a two-week impasse, earlier agreed to be the keynote speaker in the opening ceremonies in Naga City.

Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo has written a directive to the Philippine Sports Commission and the DepEd to start the Palaro on June 3 since the President will be in the Bicol region around that time.

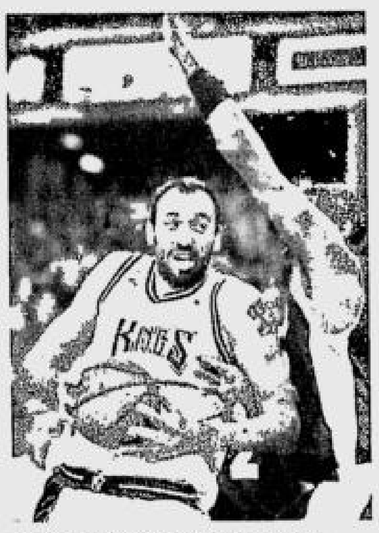
PSC chair Eric Buhain said they have no choice but to abide by the directive even though the regional offices, which are in charge of the delegations' readiness, asked for a week-long postponement to prepare better.

Still, Buhain tried to boost the regional directors' morale by approving the release of P10 million additional funds on top of the P30 million already given them for the delegations' operational expenses.

Buhain said the agency managed to save money when it scrapped the Summer Youth Training Camp and the country's participation to the Arafura Games in Perth, Australia.

WEST FINALS

Kings equalize series vs Lakers



SACRAMENTO'S Vlade Divac (left) drives against Los Angeles Lakers' Samaki Walker in the second quarter of Game 2. The Kings won, 96-90, to tie their series at 1-1. AP

SACRAMENTO, California—Chris Webber had 21 points and 13 rebounds, and Mike Bibby scored 20 points as the Sacramento Kings evened the Western Conference finals 1-1 Monday, weathering Shaquille O'Neal's biggest game of the postseason to beat the Lakers 96-90.

The Lakers' NBA-record streak of 12 consecutive road playoff victories ended in an ugly game in front of another delirious Arco Arena crowd. It was just the third defeat in 27 playoff games for the two-time champions, who hadn't lost on the road since Game 5 of the 2000 NBA Finals.

The best-of-seven series shifts to Los Angeles for Game 3 on Friday night (Saturday morning in Manila) and Game 4 on Sunday (Monday in Manila).

The game wasn't exactly a classic. Sacramento led 89-74 with 6 1/2 minutes remaining, but the Kings managed just one field goal after that. The Lakers gradually rallied despite poor shooting and turnovers by both teams in the closing minutes.

Trailing 92-82, the Lakers scored five straight points, but O'Neal, who had 35 points, missed a free throw, then came up short on an easy hook shot. Los Angeles missed five consecutive shots in the closing seconds before Kobe Bryant's 3-pointer in the final 12.5 seconds cut the lead to 93-90.

The Lakers eagerly fouled Webber, who missed seven of his first nine free throws on the night. Webber hit one of two, and Rick Fox missed a 3-pointer to seal it.

The Lakers got 22 points on 9-for-21 shooting from Bryant, who received three liters of intravenous fluids in the hours before the game after an overnight bout with food poisoning.

O'Neal manhandled the Kings all night, also finishing with 12 rebounds, but the Lakers never were able to exert their will as they did in Game 1, a 106-99 victory. Supporting players Fox, Derek Fisher, Devean George and Samaki Walker were a combined 9-of-32 from the field.

Robert Horry had eight points and a career playoff-high 20 rebounds before fouling out for the Lakers, who also lost Game 2 of the conference semifinals to San Antonio. *AP*

Paul wants no trouble

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey—Boston's Paul Pierce will be looking to keep out of trouble Tuesday night (Wednesday morning in Manila) as the Celtics enter Game 2 of the Eastern Conference finals against the New Jersey Nets.

The Celtics' leading scorer, who boasted that no one on Nets could stop him, played a big part in Boston's loss in Game 1 on Sunday.

He picked up two fouls in 16 seconds during the third quarter, and the game was decided with him on the bench.

"They need me to play a little more," Pierce said Monday before the Celtics practiced for Game 2. "They need to stay out of foul trouble. I know what I can do scoring the ball. That's not going to be a problem. I just got to stay out of foul trouble."

That means playing smart, and Pierce didn't do that on Sunday.

His first foul of the third quarter and third of the game was excusable. Pierce blocked a layup attempt by Kerry Kittles and was called for a debatable foul by Ron Garretson.

Pierce was miffed and tried to do too much on the other side of the court on the ensuing possession and he was called for an offensive foul for charging into Jason Kidd. Garretson again made the call.

With Pierce sitting, the Nets increased their lead from five points to 13 after three quarters. The Celtics made it close but lost 104-97. *AP*

Germany upsets Russia

DUESSELDORF, Germany—Host nation Germany scored an unexpected 2-1 victory over Russia in the World Team Cup on Monday while Argentina edged Sweden 2-1.

Tommy Haas beat former French Open champion Yevgeny Kafelnikov 7-6 (5), 6-3 and Nicolas Kiefer secured the tie when he beat Marat Safin 6-4, 2-6, 7-6 (5).

"Losing becomes a habit, but I have to deal with it," Kafelnikov said. "I've been there before, and hopefully I'll get through it again."

In the second match, Kiefer, who has lost 13 of 16 matches this year coming into the World Team Cup, surprised Sunday's Hamburg finalist Safin.

The Russians gained some consolation when Kafelnikov and Safin teamed to crush Karsten Braasch and Lars Burgsmuller 6-1, 6-1.

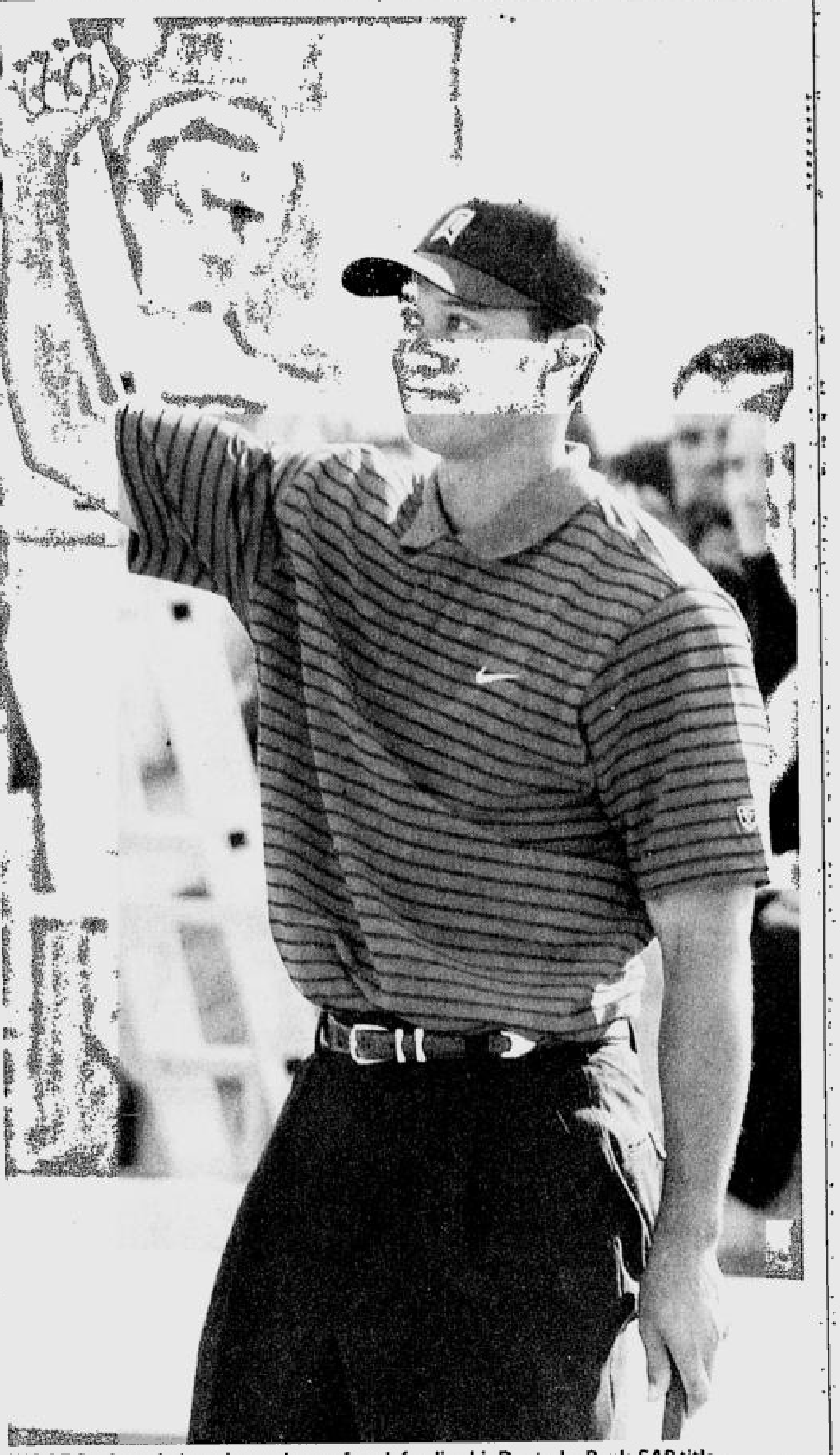
Thomas Enqvist won the opening match for Sweden, but took 2 hours, 15 minutes to edge past Jose Acasuso 4-6, 6-1, 7-6 (5). Acasuso was playing for Juan Ignacio Chela, who withdrew with an inflamed knee. *AP*

NCA 7-cock meet resumes

WITH highly favored R&B Farm I leading the field with three straight wins, explosive action resumes tonight at the Araneta Coliseum featuring the four-cock finals of the NCA 7-Cock Derby.

The entry of Rep. Claude Bautista and Boyboy Roa took the early lead late Monday night, a half point ahead of RT 114 Mapalad I and BL RQP RFP, who tallied 2-1/2 points each.

Ten other entries wound up with two points apiece, namely, Firefly Thunderbird 13 of the Firefly Group, Phoenix, Mulawin, San Pedro Jinfer, Winning Time DVH Jobo I, LCC, Nevada Fantastic Kalvin, R&B Farm II Ucap International, and Joker. Next on tap is another NCA 7-Cock Derby on May 27-29 hosted by Alan Tan, John Capinpin, Pampanga's Madlambayan brothers, Ruel Feliciano and Sons and the National Cockers Association.



WOODS acknowledges the applause after defending his Deutsche Bank-SAP title. AFP

Woods triumphs as Monty falters on 3rd playoff hole

HEIDELBERG, Germany—The Tiger Woods curse struck Colin Montgomerie yet again on Monday.

Woods won his third Deutsche Bank-SAP Open title in four years, beating Montgomerie at the third playoff hole.

Woods won with a par at the 18th, the only hole used for the playoff, when Montgomerie, struggling with back trouble, drove into a bunker and hit his escape shot into the lake.

Montgomerie had never won a tournament with Woods in the field and the jinx continued on the 18th.

The American, however, paid tribute to the Scot's tenacity.

"He is a great champion, whether he has won a major or not," Woods said.

"Monty was obviously not exactly feeling his best, but he is a true champion and fought the entire round. It was a great battle going head-to-head with him– and a lot of fun."

The two finished tied after 36 holes at 20-under 268. Woods shot a final round 4-under 68, while Montgomerie had a 69.

Both missed the green at the 72nd regulation hole, and Woods needed an 8-foot putt for par to force the playoff.

Woods had a chance to win on the first playoff hole but his 14-foot birdie putt lipped out. Both players parred the second playoff hole.

After a penalty drop, Montgomerie's shot finished 20 feet from the pin and he two-putted from there for a double bogey six.

That left Woods with two putts from four feet for victory. He duly drained the first one to clinch the 450,000 euro ($410,222) first prize.

Woods played his last 55 holes of the tournament without a bogey, his last one coming on the second hole of the second round. It was his third win in four years in the German event, having also won in 1999 and 2001. *AP*

Wack Wack paces Intervillage Central

HEROES came in abundance for the Wack Wack Village Golf team yesterday as it pooled together 287 Stableford points and showed the way after the first 18 holes of the Nokia Intervillage Central tournament at the tricky Manila Golf course inside Forbes Park.

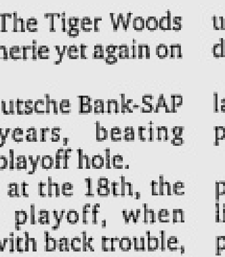
Mike Ozaeta, a 12-handicapper, stood at the helm of Wack Wack's vicious attack, firing 38 points in the 12-to-play, eight-to-count event sponsored by Nokia, the world leader in mobile communications, and supported by PLDT, Alaxan, ICTSI, National Sports Grill, Philippine Airlines, Mastercard, Mizuno and 357 Boracay.

Alex Asuncio, a 14-handicapper, and Honorio Poblador, a 17-handicapper, also scored 38 points each for Wack Wack. Last year's Intervillage Central champion, Magallanes, was second at 282, followed by Greenmeadows (269), Urdaneta (265), Forbes Park (257) and Bel-Air (247).

The final 18 holes of the Central tournament will be held June 25 at Wack Wack with the top three teams earning slots to the Nokia Grand Intervillage tournament in November. Also scheduled to play their second rounds at Wack Wack's west course are villages in the Nokia North (May 28), Nokia South (June 4) and Nokia East (June 17) tournaments.

All set for Asian Grand Prix

CLEAN LIVING



Manolo R. Iñigo

NOT one to rest his laurels, athletics president Go Teng Kok is working double time to ensure the success of this Sunday's foreign-flavored PCSO-PSC Asian Grand Prix at the Rizal Memorial track-football oval. And a most compelling reason why Go is doubly excited about hosting this world-class track and field event is because of the challenge to show to the world that the Philippine is, after all, a safe and peaceful place to visit.

Besides, he said, the meet will not only increase interest in the sport, but will also boost the morale of his wards in their quest for medals in the coming Busan Asian Games. "That's why the Grand Prix is important. It will gauge our chances in the Asiad."

Recall that the track and field team, also called GTK's Army, emerged the most successful Philippine team in last year's SEA Games in Kuala Lumpur. Its fruitful campaign was bannered by the sensational Eduardo "Vertex" Buenavista, who won the gold medals in the 3,000-meter steeplechase and the 5,000m run. Buenavista, by the way, was scheduled to take part in the second leg of the Asian GP in Bangkok yesterday after winning the silver in New Delhi where the blue-ribbon meet was launched on May 18.

Manila is the site of the third and last leg of this inaugural meet under the aegis of the Asian Amateur Athletics Association co-founded by the much-admired Gov. Jose Sering, who died last Feb. 14 at his BF Homes in Parañaque after greeting his wife in Surigao del Norte a "Happy Valentine's Day."

"Filipino sports fans are lucky," said Go, one of the most criticized and most feared NSA presidents at present. "The fans will get the rare opportunity of seeing Asia's very best track and field athletes in the Manila leg of the Grand Prix."

More than 100 athletes from 21 countries will strut their wares in the Grand Prix which stakes $2,000 for the winner in each of the 15 events, $1,000 for the runner-up and $500 for the third placer.

Buenavista, 24-year-old running phenom from South Cotabato, is the Philippines' best bet in the Manila Grand Prix and the Busan Asian Games. Aside from winning the silver in the GP leg in New Delhi, Buenavista has made some astonishing strides, breaking the SEA Games record in the 3,000m steeplechase and ruling the recent Adidas King of the Road Marathon in Hong Kong.

***

AVENTAJADO, 81. I extend my condolences to the family of sportsman and esteemed friend Robert Aventajado whose father, former San Juan councilor Genaro Urmenita Aventajado, died the other day at the age of 81. His remains lie at the Capilla de San Antonio Parish, McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City. Interment will be on Thursday, May 23, at the Manila Memorial Park in Sucat, Parañaque City.

PBA FINALS

Hotdogs a win away from crown

GAME TOMORROW (Araneta Coliseum)
6:30 p.m.—Alaska vs Purefoods

By June Navarro

PUREFOODS drubbed Alaska, 84-72, and moved a victory away from clinching the PBA Samsung Governors Cup last night at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Hotdogs mounted a huge second quarter run to overcome the Aces as they scored a third consecutive win for a 3-2 advantage in the best-of-seven championship series.

Coach Ryan Gregorio and his troops can wrap it up tomorrow in Game 6 of the Finals.

"The series is not yet over. We can't count the Aces out because they will surely make a big comeback in Game 6. We'll just come out with a lot of energy in the next game," said Gregorio, who is bidding to become the third youngest coach in PBA history to bag a title.

Derrick Brown again proved to be unstoppable as he led the attack for the Hotdogs, who are looking for their sixth overall title since joining the league in 1988.

This conference's Best Import also got plenty of help.

Kelvin Price, Kerby Raymundo, Ronnie Magsanoc, Rey Evangelista and Alvin Patrimonio also contributed to the misery of the Aces with their heads up play.

With their collective efforts, the Hotdogs built a 42-31 spread at halftime and padded the lead, 64-44, a few minutes left in the third quarter.

What made matters even worse for the Aces was the ejection of coach Tim Cone during the opening minutes of the final period.

Cone was assessed a second technical foul after arguing a call by referee Ogie Bernarte.

Ron Riley and John Arigo tried to revive Alaska after they trimmed the gap, 75-62, but Brown was there to foil the Aces.

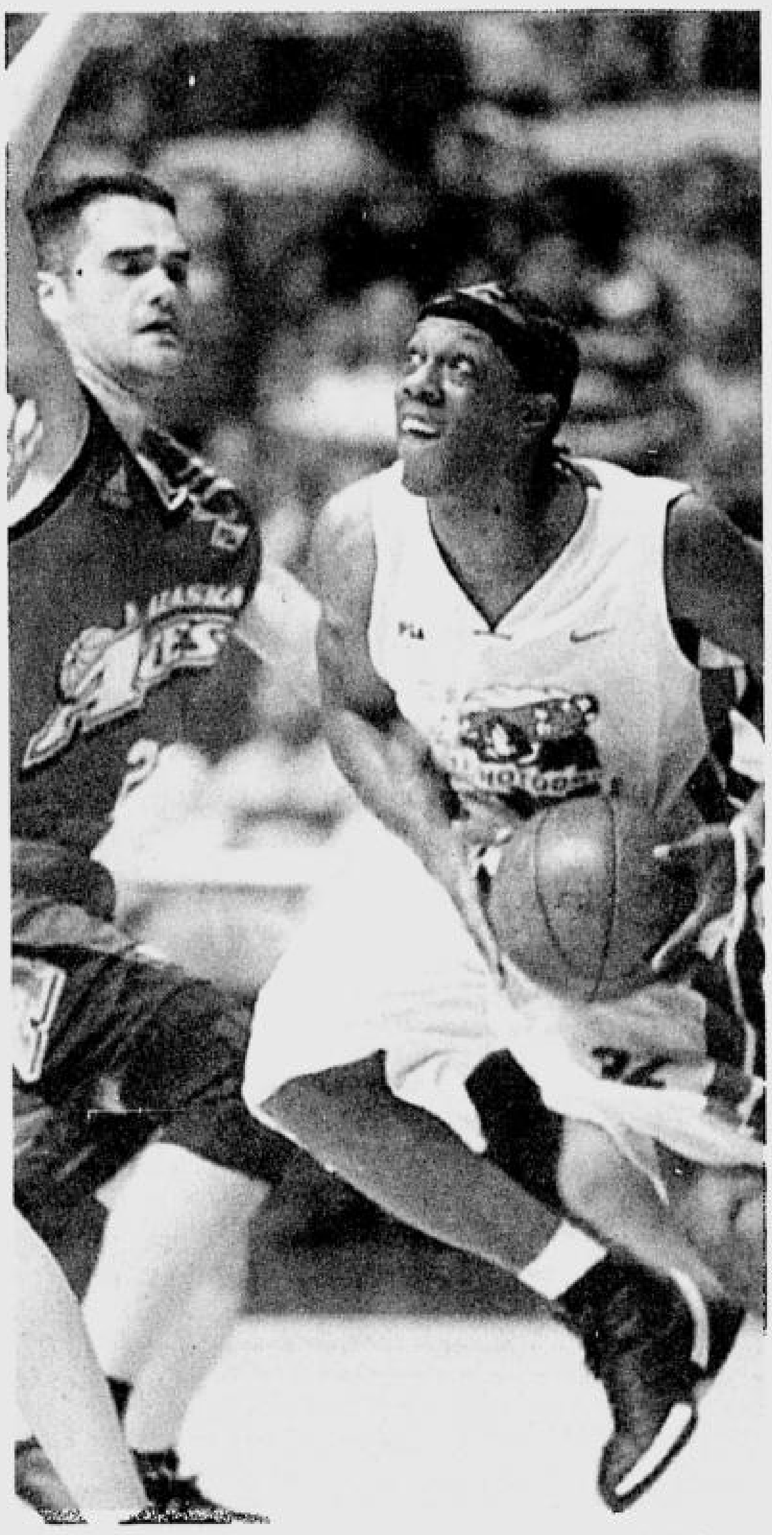
Riley actually revised his offensive strategy as he tried to bounce back from two miserable performances but the rest of the Aces were out of sync.

Scores:

PUREFOODS 84—Brown 25, Price 19, Magsanoc 11, Raymundo 10, Patrimonio 10, Yap 4, Evangelista 3, Guerrero 2, Escobar 0, Cantonjos 0.

ALASKA 72—Arigo 22, Riley 18, Head 11, Lastimosa 7, Noble 6, Allado 4, Wallkvist 2, Gahol 2, Reyes 2, Santos 0.

Quarters: 17-20, 42-31, 64-47, 84-72



PUREFOODS' Derrick Brown (right) attempts to get past Alaska's James Wallkvist during Game Four of their PBA Governors Cup title series Thursday night. The Hotdogs won, 82-76. ROMY HOMILLADA

Jao uses old bike, triumphs

ROSARIO, BATANGAS—Jolet Jao, using an old Yamaha R6, won anew the Expert class of the Shell Advance Superbike Series Sunday in the 2002 Casino Filipino Grand Prix at the Batangas Racing Circuit here, strengthening his campaign for a three-peat in the series.

"I thank my sponsors for their continuous support," Jao said. "I knew it would be a much tougher race this year since other riders are using much bigger bikes compared to my 600-cc Yamaha R6. So we made sure that our set-up was okay and kept my mind focused on the race."

Jao quickly pulled ahead from the rest of the pack and built an unmolested lead midway the race to rule Round 3 of the event, organized by the National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association (Namssa) and sanctioned by the Automotive Association of the Philippines.

He clocked 29 minutes and 10.407 seconds, way ahead of runner-up Toti Alberto who checked in 8.055 seconds later.

Rod Scott closely followed in third while Rey Relativo and Randy Ortiz wound up fourth and fifth, respectively.

Even the slippery track caused by the heavy afternoon rain failed to stop Jao's streak in Round 4.

He jacked up the day's fastest lap time of 1 minute and 44.213 seconds on the second lap and erected a 750-meter gap over Alberto, who reached the finish line 12.071 seconds behind.

Scott again snatched third place while Jeff Andres and Jose Reyes came in fourth and fifth.

Nikki Romero followed Jao's feat, pulling another sweep in the Novice division.

Kiko Roco finished runner-up in both races while Julian Goitia ended third.

The series is sponsored by the Batangas Racing Circuit Association (BRCA) Board of Governors, Casino Filipino, Pilipinas Shell, Toyota Motors Phil., MOF Shipping, Norkis-Yamaha, Marlboro, Kilton Motors Corp. and the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office through General Manager Ver Angelo.

La Salle tries to get back on track vs Kutitap today

STANDINGS	W	L
Ateneo	8	3
ICTSI-La Salle	7	4
Blu Sun Power	7	4
Shark	6	5
Kutitap	6	5

GAMES TODAY (Makati Coliseum)
3 p.m.—ICTSI-La Salle vs Kutitap
5 p.m.—Shark vs Blu Sun Power

By Dennis U. Eroa

WITH Mike Cortez still in the United States, ICTSI-La Salle tries to get back on track as it clashes with resurgent Kutitap today at the start of the PBL Chairman's Cup semifinals at the Makati Coliseum.

Sans the six-foot-flat Cortez, La Salle struggled and lost in overtime to John O last week. Cortez exploded with 33 points when the Green Archers outshone the Sparklers, 82-75, on April 29 at the Pasig Sports Center.

Gametime between ICTSI and Kutitap is at 3 p.m., followed by another thrilling match between Blu Sun Power and Shark Energy Drink at 5 p.m.

The semifinals is a double-round robin affair. A team winning five of its eight games automatically earns a playoff for the second finals berth.

"We'll give Kutitap a good fight even without Mike. But we need a good start against Kutitap. The team has the tendency to start slow and that's not a good sign," said ICTSI team official Manny Salgado.

Ronald Cuan and Chico Lanete will try to fill in the void for La Salle. The duo will go up against the vastly improved Kutitap backcourt headed by Ryan Dy.

Blu is riding high on a five-game winning streak. The Detergent Kings aim to erase the memory of a shameful 27-point setback against Shark (87-60) in the first round last April 26.

Shark also robbed Blu of its first-ever finals appearance after winning a classic triple overtime game which powered the Energy Drink Kings to their first-ever Challenge Cup title.

Shark mentor Leo Austria, owner of Challenge Cup titles, thinks he has the formula to repeat over Blu."We've identified the players who are making things happen for Blu. It's not going to be easy, but we're going to put more pressure on them." Austria is referring to former rookie of the year Marlon Legaspi, playmaker Aries Dimaunahan, Arnold Calo and shooter Eric de la Cuesta.

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

BASKETBALL: NBA Playoffs Conference Finals—Boston at New Jersey, Game 2 at 8 a.m. (r – 1 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.) on ESPN

GOLF: PGA Mastercard Colonial, Third Round at 2 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

LPGA Chick Fil-A Charity Championship, Final Round at 4 p.m. (r – 10 p.m.) on Star Sports

BASEBALL: Baseball Max at 12:30 p.m. on ESPN

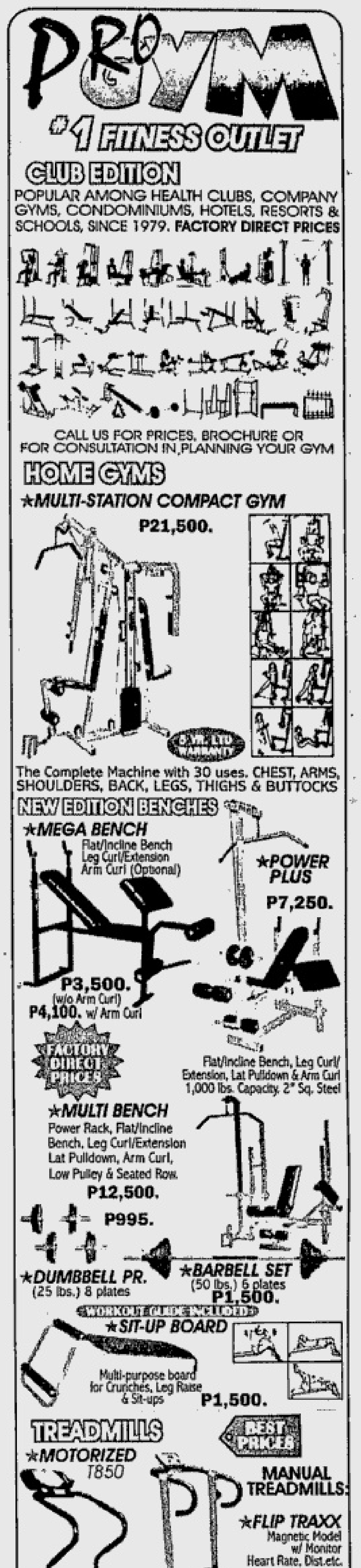
SOCCER: World Cup Mix at 7 p.m. on Star Sports

BOWLING: World Tenpin Masters 2002 at 11 a.m. on ESPN

BADMINTON: Thomas and Uber Cup 2002 Semifinals, Evening Session at 10 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1992, Efren "Bata" Reyes beat Buddy Hall, 9-7, to win the International 8-Ball Classic at the Pheasant Run Resort and Convention Center in Illinois.



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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2002

SPORTS

Editor **Al S. Mendoza** ◎ *Assistant Editor* **Edwin M. Villanueva**

LOTTO 6/42

31 6 15 40 25 28 Luzon

3 38 8 25 15 27 Vis / Min

SIX DIGIT

7 2 7 2 0 7

(in exact order)

BASEBALL RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Detroit 4, Cleveland 3; N.Y. Yankees 6, Toronto 3; Boston 9, Chicago White Sox 0; Anaheim 6, Kansas City 3.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

St. Louis 7, Cincinnati 3.

AP

OVERSIGHT BOARD

Group seeks changes in UAAP governance

By Dennis U. Eroa

A GROUP spearheaded by top university officials wants to form a higher body to watch over the present UAAP board.

In a letter to UAAP presidents and senior board members, the group composed of La Salle president Bro. Rolando Dizon, Dr. Francisco Nemenzo Jr. of the University of the Philippines, Ateneo's Dr. Miren Intal, Fr. Juan Ponce of the University of Santo Tomas and Dr. Josefina Cortes of the University of the East said there is a need to change the league's present system of governance.

"Even if we take pride in its past achievements, a change must be done in the present structure to make it more responsive to the country's needs in the Third Millennium," Dizon, who penned the group's official statement, told the INQUIRER.

Dizon noted a problem with the present set-up. "The UAAP board is composed of competent men and women, but they should not be expected to be the sole governing body that formulates policies and at the same time implements them. There are critical issues that arise which require the intervention of a higher body, such as an Oversight Board composed of all presidents of the member schools."

Dizon said the oversight board could meet once a year and whenever a major policy issue or management crisis arises. "Most corporate organizations have this structure which ensures a healthy separation between policy formulation and management implementation. It is strongly recommended that the UAAP adopt this structure," said Dizon.

The group also noted that there is a very strong need to correct the imbalance that has resulted from the importance given to basketball to the detriment of other sports.

They want incentives given to basketball players to be equal to those given to other sports and bat for a three-year residence instead of the present two years for those who want to play for the PBL and other commercial leagues.

Last year, the board headed by Anton Montinola of Far Eastern University was hounded by criticisms on the way it handled various issues, notably the Mark Cardona case which threatened to rip the league apart.

Cardona, who saw action for La Salle, went on to win rookie of the year honors as the Green Archers streaked to their fourth straight basketball title. The board has not yet issued a final decision on Cardona's case.

High cost hounds NBN's Asiad bid

BUDGETARY constraints could compel the National broadcasting Network to give up the coverage of the 2002 Busan Asian Games, but NBN Chair Mia Concio is exploring other options to bring the games to the Filipino people.

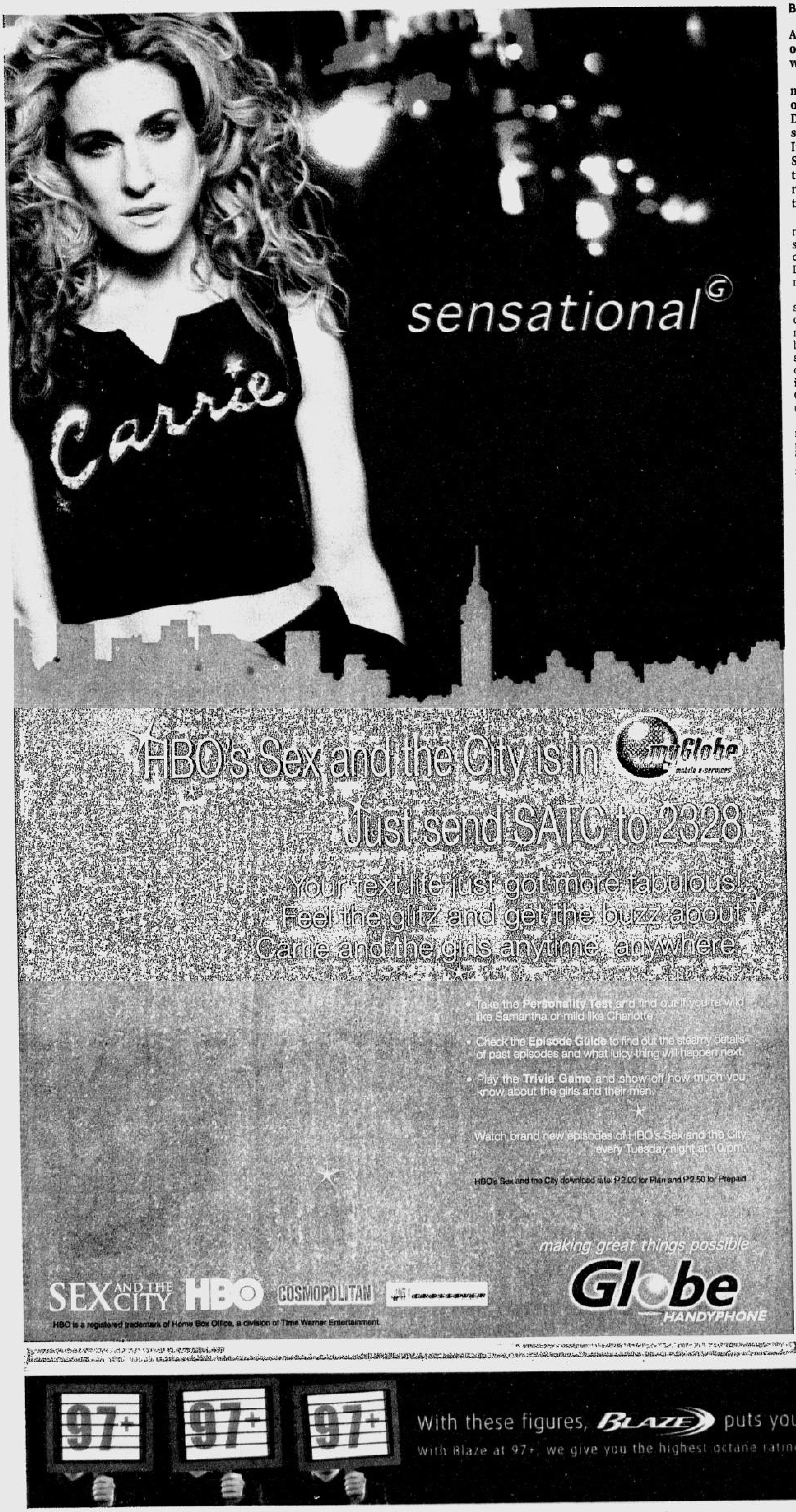
Concio, guesting at the weekly Philippine Sportswriters Association forum explained that marketing group Dentsu & Young is charging $300,000 or a whopping P15 M for the television rights alone and other expenses like production and technical costs. Talents and satellite feed would cost the government network an estimated P45 million.

"As much as we wanted to deliver the service to our countrymen, budget constraints force us to think twice on bidding for the Asian Games coverage," said Concio, who was joined by NBN General Manager Joey Isabelo in the weekly forum at the Holiday Inn Manila Pavillion.

"The spirit is here, we have the technical and production expertise and people but we don't have enough logistics to push through with it," said Isabelo.

Concio said NBN needs two months for the pre-production preparations of the said Asian Games coverage. Right now, the network is looking at the angle of airing selected events like basketball, boxing and other sports where the country has strong chances of bringing home the gold.

"For now, we have expressed our interest to bid for the rights and hopefully we could fast-track negotiations within the month. Then we'll look at our logistics and budget whether to come up with an in-depth coverage or selected telecast of the Asian Games," Concio said.



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METRO

Editor Louie C. Camino

MMDA looking for new landfills /A24
Waterless in QC /A24
Minority councilors reject colleague /A24
UPLB students protest editor's appointment /A24

Texting in drive vs smoke belching

By Christian V. Esguerra

EVEN with only two smoke detectors for all vehicles nationwide, the Land Transportation Office (LTO) is not about to give up in its campaign against smoke belchers in Metro Manila.

The LTO and the ABS-CBN Foundation are set to launch "Bantay Usok," a program that will enable the public to report through text messages smoke-belching vehicles on the

TEXTING/ A24

'Happy' bomber throws a dud

By Nelson F. Flores

A "BOMB" thrown by a laughing man caused an uproar in a crowded hardware store in Pasig City last Monday, according to a belated police report.

Police said a still unidentified man on a motorcycle threw the bomb, which turned out to be not a bomb at all, shortly after 12 noon in front of the Pasig Lumber at the foot of the Vargas Bridge.

The incident sent the store's customers and workers scampering in different directions.

Some witnesses said they heard the man laughing hard as he drove away in the motorcycle, but none of them could describe the man's looks.

Responding members of the Pasig City police bomb disposal unit secured the area and examined the cause of the commotion, and found out that it was just a ball of cotton wrapped in black leather and tied with an electrical cord, with a cheap quarts clock attached to it. Still, they took it with them for further inspection.

Police said business rivalry could be behind the prank, but they did not elaborate. They said the case was still under investigation.

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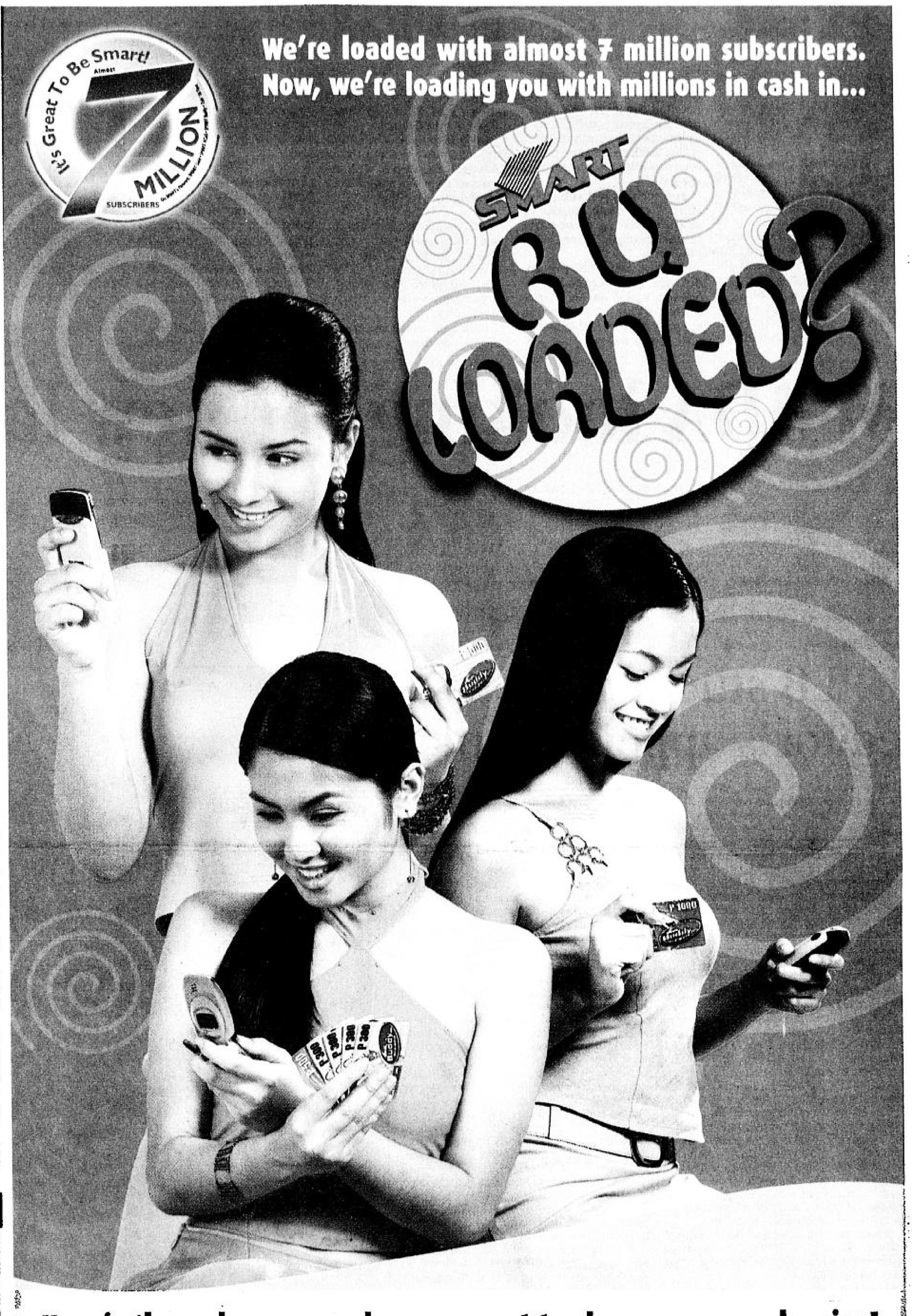
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CALTEX What Drives You

Take 2: The untold side of a successful rescue

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

MY friend's voice sounded calm and sure.

"There's a bigger side to that successful rescue story which you missed," he explained.

He proceeded to detail what really happened in the dark dungeon where the captives, a man and a woman, were found hogtied and blindfolded.

This comes a bit late. But after hearing that untold side, I find it my duty to make amends.

I was actually asked if I purposely neglected giving credit to one special police unit that played a key role in the operation.

My friend meant the rescue of Albert Yam, a wealthy Fil-Chinese trader who was abducted at the Cainta cockfight stadium early last month.

Did I do it on purpose?

Of course not, I defended, all I had reported was based on the facts gathered immediately after the rescue. This was mostly third-hand information, but I trusted its authenticity.

* * *

As had been reported, it was a stirring $1-million rescue.

Yam, abducted by heavily armed men on a Sunday, was rescued the following Friday after a brief gunfight in a Caloocan City subdivision.

The swiftness of the police operation was not a national record.

But, were it not reported, that Yam case could've again ended up as another secret triumph for criminal elements.

Why? First of all, the abductors, who demanded $1 million, had given very strict orders to Yam's family never ever to report the kidnapping to the police.

But the INQUIRER, upon learning of the abduction, didn't waste time.

City Editor Gerry Lirio, with the assistance of reporter Christian Esguerra, was instructed to get in touch with Gen. Edgardo Aglipay.

* * *

Gen. Aglipay obviously did not sleep a wink that night.

He was burning the lines until the wee hours of morning.

In the days that followed, involved parties were kept in gripping suspense.

There was no contact again from the kidnappers, whatsoever.

The Yams, forlorn, were at a loss. All they could do was pray and wonder miserably.

There were fears negotiations could drag on for months.

Then, shortly after six on that Friday morning, the phone rang.

"We've rescued your friend some 30 minutes ago," exclaimed the familiar voice. "This one's for you, *para sa iyo 'to.*"

It was Gen. Aglipay, and he sounded both fulfilled and overjoyed.

* * *

As we had gathered, it was a big composite group that worked on the Yam case. It involved operatives of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO), the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) and the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

One member of the gang was slain in a brief gunfight while nine of his companions were captured.

Gen. Aglipay, who helped supervise operations, was the highest officer to initially welcome Yam upon the rescue.

"Do have faith in the police," Yam declared upon regaining freedom.

* * *

End of Take One.

The problem here, explained my friend over the phone, is that the rescued trader may never come to know the operatives who descended into the dangerous dungeon to take him from his captors.

What can I do? I asked.

They again risked their lives, it's their duty, and they are not asking for anything in return, my friend explained, but isn't it about time they got credit?

How can we thank this gallant unit?

Just say that the Light Reaction Unit (LRU) commanded by Capt. Jun Abdullah, of Gen. Aglipay's Regional Mobile Group, comprised the uniformed strike force that descended on the safehouses of the kidnappers. They rammed open the locked gate, barged in, shot it out with the abductors and rescued the victims.

What more can we say about the LRU?

It's an authentic, low-profile elite organization that was in the frontlines of some of the most celebrated police rescue missions and assaults of the past decades, like the Gokongwei and Burns cases.

Tell me, I asked my friend, do I happen to know some of the LRU members?

Remember "Mao" Maure and Joe Modequillo, with whom you had shot a few rounds at the range?

I do. But knowing them, I doubt if they would agree to their names being mentioned here.

MMDA looking for new landfills

By Alcuin Papa

THE METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority is looking for new landfills to hold the garbage of Metro Manila so as not to overwork the Montalban landfill.

In a news conference on Monday, MMDA Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. said he and other MMDA officials agreed to conduct a search for new landfills.

"We (MMDA officials) agreed to identify more landfills so that we won't be hostage to only one landfill," Abalos said.

He said the new landfills would be located outside Metro Manila.

He did not say how many landfills the MMDA would want, only that municipalities would be "clustered" in using the landfills. There will be no more bidding for the landfills and the local government units will fund their construction, he said.

Abalos said the MMDA is also set to "establish more materials reduction facilities until every city and municipality in Metro Manila has one."

He said the MMDA will request each city and municipal government in Metro Manila to establish a solid waste management board, as mandated by Republic Act No. 9003, also known as the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act.

As the law mandates, the solid waste management boards will be composed of the MMDA, the business sector, and non-government organizations and will formulate strategies on waste management.

"These boards are needed to properly implement RA 9003," Abalos said.

The MMDA is conducting renegotiations with garbage contractor Jancom in a bid to finally implement the $350-million garbage contract that has been stalled for five years now.

Three officials of the Ramos administration and Jancom officials signed the controversial contract in 1997. But former presidents Fidel Ramos and Joseph Estrada had refused to sign the contract.

President Arroyo had already said she would not sign the contract because it was "flawed," just after the Supreme Court ruled it was "valid and perfected" and could be implemented if signed by the President.

The MMDA is negotiating with Jancom to lower the tipping fee from the original $32 to around $20. The MMDA had sought an opinion from the Department of Justice on the legality of conducting talks with Jancom.

Environmental and non-government organizations had opposed the deal, saying it would defraud the government of P390 billion. Jancom argued that the total project cost of the build-operate-transfer project was only $350 million.

UPLB students protest editor's appointment

LOS BAÑOS, Laguna—Student officers of the University of the Philippines-Los Baños (UPLB) protested the controversial appointment of the new editor in chief of the UPLB Perspective.

They claimed Nicolo Masakayan was not endorsed by the editorial examination committee and was a far third qualifier in the exams for the paper's highest position.

Outgoing editor-in-chief Lawrence Ramos showed the INQUIRER documents indicating that all five ad hoc committee members appointed by UPLB Chancellor Wilfredo P. David had endorsed Mari Zaira Lopez who garnered a score of 90.03 for editor in chief.

But the UPLB head appointed instead Masakayan, who was a far third with a 79.09 score, for the top position.

In a statement, the Office of the Chancellor justified its appointment of Masakayan on April 17. It said that the two student representatives (Ramos and Simonette S. Lim, president of the UPLB Student Council) in the committee were obviously biased against Masakayan, resulting in his very low rating.

This prompted the chancellor to have the previous scores re-examined by committee chair Dr. Leonardo A. Chua who complied by singlehandedly going over the earlier results, the statement said. Chua subsequently noted that the earlier "report on the results of the editorial examination reflects a statistical anomaly (inconsistency) in the ratings given by some members of the ad hoc editorial committee."

Chua supposedly explained that "the inconsistency is shown by the wide variance produced by the extreme ratings at the lower end of the array (given by Lim)."

He said that the extremely low ratings distorted the position of the individual examinees in the rank order.

In his letter to the chancellor, the committee chair proposed that the individual ratings of the examinees could be ranked and averaged according to numerical ranking to correct the distortion.

He illustrated this in a new table that revealed that Masakayan and Lopez tied for first place.

The chancellor then broke the tie between Masakayan and Lopez, as provided by the revised rules and regulations governing the UPLB Perspective, by choosing Masakayan whom he perceived as having "more journalistic experience."

Masakayan was the associate editor of the paper, while Lopez was a news reporter.

Lopez filed a complaint before the Office of the Chancellor on April 25 questioning Chua's "whimsical" action outside the committee and denounced it as a "great disrespect to intellectual and democratic discussion within the committee."

She said she would pursue her case by enlisting all legal means "to revive decency and transparency in the choice of the UPLB Perspective's top officer."

Copies of her letter-complaint were also given to the Board of Regents and the College Editors Guild of the Philippines-Southern Tagalog and national executive committees.

The INQUIRER tried several times to talk to Chua but he was supposedly on vacation and does not entertain interviews in his residence, according to a staff member in his office.

Ramos and Lim said Chua's one-man decision constitutes a breach of the proper "selection process" provided in Articles 4 and 6 in the rules governing UPLB Perspective, which require the committee to work as a body.

The other members of the selection committee were faculty members Dr. Elvira S. Talatayod and Dr. Roldan M. Cardona. Both were not available for an interview.

Aside from Lopez and Masakayan, the other aspirants for editorship were Jimmylen Zuñega, with a score of 83.45, and Luisito Abueg, 71.44. ***Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

UNITED WE STAND. . . Grim-faced members of student organizations try to stay together as police try to disperse them during a demonstration against tuition increases, while Malacañang employees watch from inside the Palace compound.

ERIK ARAZAS

Texting in drive . . .

From page A23

streets of the metropolis, LTO chief Roberto Lastimoso yesterday told a forum at the Westin Philippine Plaza in Pasay City.

Lastimoso said that during the launching of Bantay Usok on June 4, the LTO would release the mobile phone numbers through which the public can course its complaints.

"This is one way of letting the public know that we are bent on solving the problem of smoke belching in the country," he said.

He said his office will immediately summon and penalize motorists who will be accused of smoke belching by at least five independent sources.

In yesterday's forum, Lastimoso also admitted that the LTO has insufficient equipment to fully implement the provisions of the Clean Air Act of 1999, which penalizes smoke belching.

"Without smoke belching detection instruments, we cannot just apprehend the drivers of vehicles emitting thick smoke," he said. "There has to be a test."

The LTO only has two smoke detection equipment, one of which has long been broken, he said. The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, which is conducting a similar anti-smoke belching campaign, has 15.

Luis Sison, chair of the Philippine National Construction Corp., suggested during the forum that the LTO conduct smoke emission tests in vehicle terminals so that traffic officers would not have to go after violators on the streets.

But Lastimoso clarified that the LTO cannot apprehend vehicles until they are actually on the streets.

The LTO's intensified drive against smoke-belching vehicles is a rundown for the launching of the Motor Vehicle Inspection Emission Testing System (MVIETS) on July 1.

Vehicles applying for road permits will have to pass the smoke emission and road worthiness tests to be conducted by the MVIETS, according to Lastimoso.

Waterless in Quezon City areas

LARGE portions of Novaliches and Commonwealth in Quezon City will have no water for 13 hours starting at 9 p.m. tonight until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Maynilad Water Services Inc. said the water service interruption will give way to the replacement of a leaking valve in Fairview, Quezon City.

The interruption will affect Novaliches barangays North Fairview (including Phase 8 and Northridge Subidivision), Sta. Lucia, Gulod, San Bartolome (including a portion of San Pedro 7), Bagbag, parts of Sauyo (including Abbey Road and Richland 5), parts of Talipapa (including Sta. Sabina, Del Nacia, Dona Marciana and GSIS Subdivision), and Santiago and Saint James subdivisions.

In Commonwealth, the affected areas are barangays Fairview (East, South and West), Commonwealth (Don Jose Subdivision and adjacent subdivisions), Holy Spirit (including Capitol Estate 1 and 2, Don Antonio and Don Jose areas), Batasan Hills (including Filinvest 1 and 2), Bagong Silangan (including Violago Homes), and Payatas (including Lupang Pangako).

Consumers may call the Maynilad hotline 1626 for the water-rationing schedule.

Minority councilors reject actor colleague

THE MINORITY bloc in the Manila City council has decided not to accept Councilor Isko Moreno into their fold.

The minority leader, Councilor Don Ramon Bagatsing, on Monday told the INQUIRER that Moreno's adversarial attitude in the council "could destroy the harmony" between the opposition and the majority in the 38-seat body.

This is the consensus of most of the six minority councilors who held an informal caucus last week to tackle Moreno's verbal application, Bagatsing said in a phone interview.

Moreno quit the majority two weeks ago after he accused his colleagues of unjustly delaying his proposed expropriation ordinance that would benefit his constituents in Tondo.

The first district councilor, who is also a movie actor, even started behaving like a member of the opposition by questioning the council proceedings as well as the rulings of the majority.

Bagatsing, however, stressed that the minority councilors preferred to stick to their "constructive criticism" of the administration of Mayor Lito Atienza. ***Jerome Aning***

Round-the-clock police patrols for Manila

MANILA Mayor Lito Atienza on Monday ordered the head of the Western Police District to form a team to go after the group or groups that recently staged two robberies in the Lagusnilad underpass near City Hall.

The mayor also asked the WPD director, Chief Supt. Nicolas Pasinos Jr., to put round-the-clock police patrols in the city's commercial areas to protect them against criminal elements.

The recent holdup took place last Friday and resulted in the killing of a money changer's messenger and a traffic policeman. The robbers took about P3 million in cash, investigators said.

The mayor said City Hall will shoulder the funeral expenses for the slain policeman, SPO2 Damaso Rivera, and the hospital bills of another policeman, PO3 Precello Tongol, who was escorting the messenger and who was wounded in the shootout. ***Jerome Aning***

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9	BENEATH LOCHNESS
10	JASON - X

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4	STAR WARS
5	BENEATH LOCHNESS
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12	SPIDERMAN

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7	STAR WARS
8	SPIDERMAN
9	CLOSED
10	CLOSED
11	CLOSED
12	CLOSED

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2	DEATH TO SMOOCHY
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5	STAR WARS
6	FRUIT IS SWELLING
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8	SPIDERMAN
9	VIDEOKI KING
10	STAR WARS

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1	STAR WARS
2	RETURN TO NEVERLAND
3	SEVEN DAYS TO LIVE
4	SPIDERMAN
5	AKALA MO
6	SANA TOTOO NA
7	SPIDERMAN
8	STAR WARS

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1	STAR WARS
2	CLOSED
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5	AKALA MO
6	STAR WARS
7	CLOSED
8	K - PAX

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3	STAR WARS
4	SPIDERMAN
5	K - PAX
6	AKALA MO

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2	STAR WARS
3	STAR WARS
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2	STAR WARS
3	SPIDERMAN
4	AKALA MO

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5	STAR WARS: EPISODE 2
6	SPIDERMAN
7	DEATH TO SMOOCHY

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7	
8	

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4	

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2 (DTS)	AKALA MO
3 (DOLBY)	STAR WARS
4	STAR WARS

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3 (DTS)	STAR WARS
4	AKALA MO

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2	AKALA MO
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

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4 (DTS)	STAR WARS

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2	RESERVE
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2	STAR WARS
3 (DTS)	SPIDERMAN
4	AKALA MO
5	SANA TOTOO NA

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3	SANA TOTOO NA

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2	SPIDERMAN
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3

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8	AKALA MO

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8	DEATH TO SMOOCHY

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Retired general finds new calling

By Raul Palabrica

WHO can begrudge retired military officials if they spend their time at the golf courses or baby-sit for their grandchildren after giving the best years of their lives in the service?

For Brig. Gen. (ret.) Salvador Regalado, 70, former commander of the 580th Aircraft Control and Warning Wing of the Philippine Air Force, retirement represents an opportunity to help a parish priest attend to the spiritual needs of his flock.

Regalado is a special lay minister for Holy Communion at the Sacred Heart Parish of Alabang, Muntinlupa City. The parish covers several subdivisions of wealthy families and squatter communities that surround the area.

As lay minister, he gives communion to the faithful during Sunday and Saturday anticipated Mass or other holidays of obligation. If parishioners are too sick to visit the church, he can do the task in their homes. His services can also be tapped by the parish for other religious and social activities.

This new "calling" is in contrast to the work he engaged in for more than 33 years in the military. His career in the Armed Forces of the Philippines started with his enrolment in the Philippine Military Academy in 1951 at the age of 19 and his graduation, four years later, as member of "PMA Griffin Class 1955."(Griffin is a mythological creature with the head and wings of an eagle and the body of a lion.)

Like many other cadets, he entered the PMA out of financial necessity. With parents who could not provide for his college education, Regalado, the youngest in a family of five, took the PMA route to earn a college degree.

Military service

REGALADO as a young cadet.

Out of 88 original applicant-cadets, only 54 eventually got their commission. The class produced 17 generals, including commodores and admiral. The class roster includes Lt. Gen. Salvador Mison, who was AFP vice chief of staff, and Admiral Brillante Ochoco, flag-officer-in-command of the Philippine Navy during the Marcos years. Only 34 of his *mistahs* are still living.

After his induction to the AFP, Regalado enrolled at the PAF Flying School to prepare for a career in the air force. Upon completion of the two-year flying studies, he earned flying hours behind the controls of the jet fighters then in use and C-47 cargo planes that doubled as troop carriers.

From crossing Philippine skies, Regalado moved to the aircraft control and warning wing, the PAF unit that monitored the airplanes that entered Philippine territory and "scrambled" the jets to intercept any unidentified intruder into the country's air space.

It was during his assignment in this unit that he earned his promotions, which culminated in the rank of brigadier general and wing commander, the position he held when he retired on Oct. 16, 1984.

Invitation

The idea of performing lay services came to Regalado last year in the course of his regular early morning brisk walk around the village he lived in. The exercise was prescribed by his doctor to prevent a recurrence of the mild stroke he suffered several years ago.

Golf, the favorite sport of many of his fellow retired generals, lost its appeal to him when he once suffered a sun stroke while in the middle of a game.

One of the members of his exercise crowd happened to be a lay minister in the church where they both worshiped. From out of the blue, the lay minister asked if Regalado was interested in assisting their parish priest in giving communion to Mass goers.

The invitation came as a surprise to Regalado. While he was not negligent in the performance of his religious duties, the thought of doing more than hearing Mass or observing traditional church rites appealed to him.

Why not? He had enough time in his hands. He was no longer keen in resuming the trading and real estate businesses he once engaged in to augment the monthly pension he received from the government. All his five daughters are of age already.

After serving the temporal world for most of his life, it was only fitting to give something back to God in appreciation for the blessings that He had showered on him and his family.

Good example

Upon accepting the invitation to serve as lay minister, Regalado underwent the usual checking of credentials and preparation for laity work. He, together with other candidates for the missionary work, attended a one-day seminar at the Archbishop's Palace in Intramuros, Manila.

They were informed of the duties and responsibilities that go with their newly found calling. The symbolism behind the Mass rituals was explained. They were given instructions on how to move around the altar during the ceremony.

And most importantly, they were taught the proper way to handle the chalice and the holy Eucharist it contains. The communion bread is given either by gently putting it on the proffered hand or mouth of the communicant after he or she responded "amen" to the greeting "body of Christ."

Lay ministry is not all communion giving and participation in religious rituals. The position requires its holders to maintain clean and upright lives. As extensions of the priest's authority to administer the communion bread to the faithful, lay ministers are expected to be good role models in the community.

Any hint of scandalous behavior or report of improper conduct by lay ministers is bound to have serious adverse effects on the moral authority and reputation of the parish priest whose ministry work they are supposed to assist.

Clean record

Living up to the demands of lay ministry will be the least of Regalado's concerned. He retired from the AFP after more than three decades of service without having to answer any complaint for graft and corruption.

The simply designed house he has been living in at Alabang Hills Village since his retirement in 1984 came from the proceeds of his retirement pay. In terms of size and architecture, his house pales in comparison to the mansions that many other retired military officials have built for themselves in the posh villages along Edsa.

REGALADO today: Farewell to arms.

Regalado has been married to Hildegarda Nava for the past 45 years. He met her when she accompanied her brother, then a lower class PMA cadet, at the Independence Day (July 4, 1953) Hop of the academy held at the Malacañang grounds.

Although Regalado had a different date that night, it was Hildegarda who caught his attention and with whom he shared a dance. He was so smitten by her charm that he forgot to get her name correctly. He thought her name was "Edilberta."

Upon his return to Baguio City, Regalado immediately sent the first of his love letters to "Edilberta Nava" who was then studying at Maryknoll College in Quezon City.

She politely told him the correct spelling of her name. Two years after graduating from the PMA, they got married. And are still happily married to each other to this day.

Former lady executive fights for her life and her rights

By Christine Avendaño

SHE still remembers the taste of sand in her mouth before darkness swallowed her.

Maria Isabel Santos, top executive of a multi-national pharmaceuticals firm, had just started eating her favorite dish of mussels in a Paris restaurant when she suffered an attack of allergic asthma on March 29, 1998.

This time, the attack was not brought on by the usual pollen or dust mite, but was quite severe.

In the next 21 days, Santos, then 41, lay in a coma at the Centre Chirurgical De L' Quest and was in hospital for a total of three months.

Today, Santos, a B.S. Psychology graduate of the University of the Philippines, is physically and mentally incapacitated. She talks very slowly. Her eyes respond only to light and shadows, and she still has to regain full use of her hands, which remain clenched.

"She needs assistance 24 hours a day," said Dr. Zenaida Bagabaldo, her neurologist for three years now at the San Juan de Dios Hospital in Pasay City. "Her disability is total and permanent."

Santos' husband Tony, a visual artist and designer, believes it is a miracle that she has survived this long. Family and friends continue to shower the couple with prayers and good wishes.

But they need more than goodwill.

SANTOS

The couple is now fighting for the P5 million in benefits granted in principle by her former employer, Servier Philippines Inc.

At the time Santos suffered the attack, she had worked for the Paris-based company for eight years as human resource manager in Manila. She would go to the Servier head office in France at least four times a year to attend training seminars, which was why she was in Paris when she fell ill.

Retirement benefits

In a letter dated July 15, 1999, Servier Philippines Inc. terminated Santos' services effective Aug. 31, 1999. The firm offered P2.528 million in retirement, insurance pension, and educational assistance benefits.

A month later, Servier offered another P400,000 to cover medical, health care, and additional educational assistance. The company also informed Santos that she had been paid P2.124 million in salaries, bonuses, and incentives from Aug. 1, 1998 to Aug. 31, 1999 "as a gesture of support and compassion."

Servier had previously shouldered her medical expenses in France and her initial rehabilitation at St. Luke's Medical Center in Quezon City.

To this day, Mr. Santos said, they have collected only P701,454, part of Marisa's retirement benefit amounting to P1.06 million. The rest of the sum was supposedly deducted as income tax, Mr. Santos said.

When he protested that that his wife should have been exempted from deductions because of her disability, Servier Controller Virgilio Morales suggested that the couple file for a refund with the Bureau of Internal Revenue. The couple also filed a case against Servier before the National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC) on June 7, 2001.

In their petition, the Santoses sought full payment of Marisa's retirement plan and other benefits, plus separation pay.

For the past two years, Mr. Santos said he has also been following up on his wife's disability claims from Servier, through Manila Bankers Life Insurance Corp. and FEZ Life and Accident Insurance Services Inc.

Ping-pong ball

Mr. Santos claimed he has been sent back and forth like a ping-pong ball between the BIR and the insurance companies. Manila Bankers' last letter dated Aug. 2,2001 rejected the disability claim, pointing out that "(Santos') total and permanent disability apparently occurred only in May 2000... after terminating (her) employment and coverage."

The letter cited Dr. Bagabaldo's initial medical report, classifying Santos' disability as "partial permanent." On May 25, 2000, the neurologist's recorded assessment indicated that the patient's disability had become total and permanent.

Mr. Santos then requested Bagabaldo to write letters of clarification to the insurance firms, which she did. In separate letters both dated Aug. 8, 2001, the doctor asked the companies to reconsider their position, offering a medical certificate she issued on June 10, 1999 to the effect that her patient had not fully recovered. The certificate also said there was no telling how soon Marisa would regain use of her mental and physical faculties, or to what extent.

On Sept. 28, 2001, labor arbiter Aliman Mangandog dismissed for lack of merit the case filed earlier with the NLRC. The couple appealed for reconsideration, saying that Mangandog had committed a "serious error in the finding of facts" as well as "grave abuse of discretion." The case is still pending.

Mr. Santos has continued to nag the two insurance firms, especially because he got a certification from another company in October last year, where his wife had taken out a policy years ago, acknowledging her total and permanent disability.

Based on the certification, dated Oct. 15, 2001 and signed by AVP Susan V. Ocampo, Philam Life Insurance Company approved Marisa's disability claim.

Santos' policy defined total and permanent disability as "uninterrupted disability for not less than six months, which prevents the insured from engaging in any gainful occupation, employment or business for which he/she is fitted by education or training."

SANTOS before she fell ill.

Dismissed

On Nov. 5, 2001, the couple filed before Makati's City Prosecution Office a criminal complaint against Servier officials for violating the Retirement Pay Law. Named respondents were Gerald Lalande, Jose Cavada, Virgilio Morales, and Philip Molhant.

On Jan. 4 this year, the complaint was dismissed "for lack of probable cause." The resolution penned by Carlito Calpatura, investigating prosecutor, said Santos had been separated from Servier because of her disability, a circumstance that disqualified her from the company's existing retirement plan and took her beyond the scope of the Retirement Pay Law.

The couple immediately filed a motion for reconsideration, which was denied by Calpatura on April 9. Mr. Santos planned to file a petition for a review of the decision with the Department of Justice.

Meanwhile, Santos goes on with her restricted daily routine. She does her exercises—stretching and walking—religiously, with a lot of help from therapists. Mr. Santos says, her therapy, medication, and dietary supplements alone add up to P30,000 monthly.

Albert, their 17-year-old son, will go to college next month. The family is depending on the promised educational assistance benefit.

Santos herself said she vividly remembers that fateful night in Paris. Talking softly and slowly, she said she had eaten in her favorite restaurant, where she had made it a point to drop by whenever she was in Paris. She even kept a photograph with friends there, relishing their favorite dish.

"I loved mussels," she said, "but I ate them only whenever I was abroad, because I was afraid of Red Tide."

Ironically, she came face to face with what she had feared in a Paris restaurant.

Today, the couple continues fighting together their battle. But most of the time, Mr. Santos has to choose between fighting for his wife's rights and fighting for her rights.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, May 22, 2002
7th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: **James 4:13-17**
Gospel: **Mk 9:38-40**

John said to Jesus, "Master, we saw someone who drove out demons by calling upon your name, and we tried to forbid him because he does not belong to our group." Jesus answered, "Do not forbid him, for no one who works a miracle in my name can soon after speak evil of me. For whoever is not against us is for us."

Commentary

Following Jesus' teachings, everybody is entitled to do apostolic work and contribute to the common good. His disciples thought that only they could perform miracles and preach to the crowd; they tried to prevent others from taking "their clients." They considered themselves not as servants of the cause of Kingdom but owners of that cause. It was a wrong perception. The cause of the Kingdom of God is the cause of the whole humanity. In the same way nowadays, outside the Catholic Church, the Church of the apostles, different Christian denominations do apostolic work. This evangelization outside the Church, at times against the Church, offers us a challenge and a call to reform. How can we condemn those who by their missionary action allow many people to meet Jesus Christ in fervent and welcoming communities?

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

JUDICIAL ETHICS—Partiality—Partiality indicates bias, predilection or the inclination to favor one side. While a judge should possess proficiency in law in order that he can competently construe and enforce the law, it is more important that he should act and behave in such a manner that the parties before him should have confidence in his impartiality. Like Caesar's wife, a judge must not only be pure but beyond suspicion. In the present case, respondent judge opened himself to suspicion of partiality when he exhibited extraordinary leniency and indulgent attitude towards Yu Yuk Lai. [Citations omitted.] [En Banc, Per Curiam, Re: Release by Judge Muro of an Accused in a Non-bailable Offense. A. M. No. 00-7-323-RTJ, October 17, 2001]

DIGEST BY R. B. VERA

Outrage over water rates, tuition hike

By Jerome Aning and Agnes Donato

WHILE militant and urban poor groups are raising hell over the plan of water companies to raise water rates, students and their parents are threatening to take to the streets once the Tuition Fee Rationalization Act—where tuition may be raised up to 15 percent without prior consultation—is passed.

The National Union of Students of the Philippines on Monday rejected the tuition bill of Samar Rep. Antonio Eduardo Nachura and demanded "stronger measures" to regulate tuition collection in the country.

"If this bill is passed into law, every school in the country, public or private, can jack up their tuition without the government scrutinizing their move," NUSP president Raymond Palatino said.

This, Palatino said, "is tantamount to denying the right of Filipino students to an affordable education."

The Manila-based NUSP, which has hundreds of members in the city's so-called "University Belt" area, is one of the groups objecting to Nachura's bill during Monday's hearing at Congress.

Palatino said setting a cap on tuition increases is "futile" because schools can actually still charge "above the ceiling."

"Imposing a 15-percent ceiling on tuition increases does not regulate tuition but gives license to every school to raise their tuition every year by as much as 15 percent," Palatino said. "It does not force schools to justify their proposal to increase tuition but accepts (their) explanation ... that they need to survive."

The student leader said lawmakers should attend consultations and witness for themselves the proceedings, which he described as "undemocratic and fraudulent."

The NUSP, quoting a report of the Commission on Higher Education, said 281 private universities are set to raise their tuition this year.

If Nachura's bill is approved next year, all public and private universities are expected to take advantage of its provisions to increase their tuition, Palatino warned.

On Monday, members of the militant labor group Kilusang Mayo Uno and urban poor group Kadamay trooped to the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System headquarters in Balara, Quezon City to denounce the proposed water rate hikes by the Maynilad Water Services and Manila Waters Corporation Inc. (MWCI).

KMU secretary general Elmer Labog said Malacañang should stop the Lopez-owned Maynilad from increasing its water rates by P6 per cubic meter in July.

"The Arroyo government should impose price control on water and electricity rates and oil prices," Labog maintained. "Workers and poor people have suffered tremendously because of the habitual price hikes imposed by these private utility companies."

He said no reason can justify Maynilad and MWCI's rate increases for they have already raised the prices twice last year.

"The public should not be made to shoulder a single centavo of their losses due to volatile foreign currency adjustments and peso devaluation," Labog said.

He also maintained that the Automatic Currency Exchange Rate Adjustment (CERA) being collected by both water companies already proved to be too much.

The labor leader stressed the privatization of the MWSS, which originally promised better service and lower water rates, only resulted in frequent water supply interruption and more rate hikes.

He recalled that the Maynilad increased rates by P4.21 per cubic meter last October and by another P4 from January to February this year.

Second inmate bolts from jail

By Christian V. Esguerra

TWO INMATES escaped from the custody of the Bureau of Corrections in less than a week beginning last Thursday, prison officials admitted yesterday.

Rosario Madera, who was serving a six-year jail term for drug charges, escaped from the Rizal Medical Center where she was taken after she complained of lung problems around 3 a.m. yesterday, said prisons director Ricardo Macala.

She was recaptured at the Princess Traveler Hotel in Guadalupe Viejo in Makati eight hours later, according to Macala.

Madera's escape came five days after a convicted car thief escaped as he was being taken to the New Bilibid Prisons compound in Muntinlupa City.

Manuel Manalo, 25, managed to escape from two prison guards when he was allowed to relieve himself in the vicinity of Soldiers' Hills around 1 p.m. Thursday.

He and his escorts were on their way back to the NBP compound following a hearing at a Makati Regional Trial Court where he was facing criminal charges.

Macala has ordered NBP Supt. Gregorio Agaloos to explain the circumstances of the escape and suspend the prison guards pending the results of the investigation.

He said the two prison guards may be charged with grave misconduct and infidelity in the custody of prisoners.

56 down in prison boil outbreak

By Tina Santos

FIFTY-SIX inmates of the Caloocan City Jail were reported to have been infected with boil, and the alleged outbreak has alarmed the more than 1,300 prisoners detained in the facility.

A duty nurse on Monday revealed that the 56 inmates have been infected with boil in different parts of the body.

The nurse, who refused to be named, claimed most of those who were infected apparently failed to observe proper personal hygiene.

But the nurse was quick to add that some could not have helped it because of the poor ventilation and inadequate facilities in the city jail.

The nurse said that the hot and humid weather also contributed to the outbreak because the bacteria that caused the boil thrives in heat, helped along by the unsanitary conditions in jail.

The nurse also said that each cell has an average holding capacity of 50 inmates, but because of inadequate facilities, the number of prisoners in each cell is doubled.

She likewise revealed that they are running short of medicine for the inmates.

"We really lack medicines," the nurse said. "Our supplies may run out if this sickness is not controlled."

It was also learned that aside from boil, airborne diseases like measles and other skin ailments are common inside the city jail.

'Loudmouth' hacked to death with a bolo

A MAN whom a witness described as a drunken loudmouth was hacked to death early yesterday morning in Caloocan City.

Police said Joseph Ibanes, a laborer and resident of Pichagan Street, Camarin, Caloocan City, sustained multiple stab wounds after his drinking buddy, Eduardo Rivera, hacked him with a 23-inch bolo.

The victim died at the East Avenue Medical Center a few hours later, police said.

Investigation showed that at around 2 p.m., Ibanes, Rivera and their friends were having a drink on Pichagan Street, when Ibanes allegedly started to rant at Rivera.

Rivera reportedly tried to shrug off the invectives, knowing that Ibanes was just drunk, a witness told police.

But Ibanes would not stop, so Rivera got hold of a 23-inch bolo and started to hack away in a drunken fury, police said.

Rivera immediately fled from the scene, while Ibanes was rushed to the hospital.

The suspect is now at large, police said. His live-in partner, Charlita Bagaporo, yesterday surrendered to the police the bolo the suspect used in the killing.

Tina Santos

Meet & Greet
Judy Ann Santos
& Dingdong Dantes
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1pm SM Centerpoint
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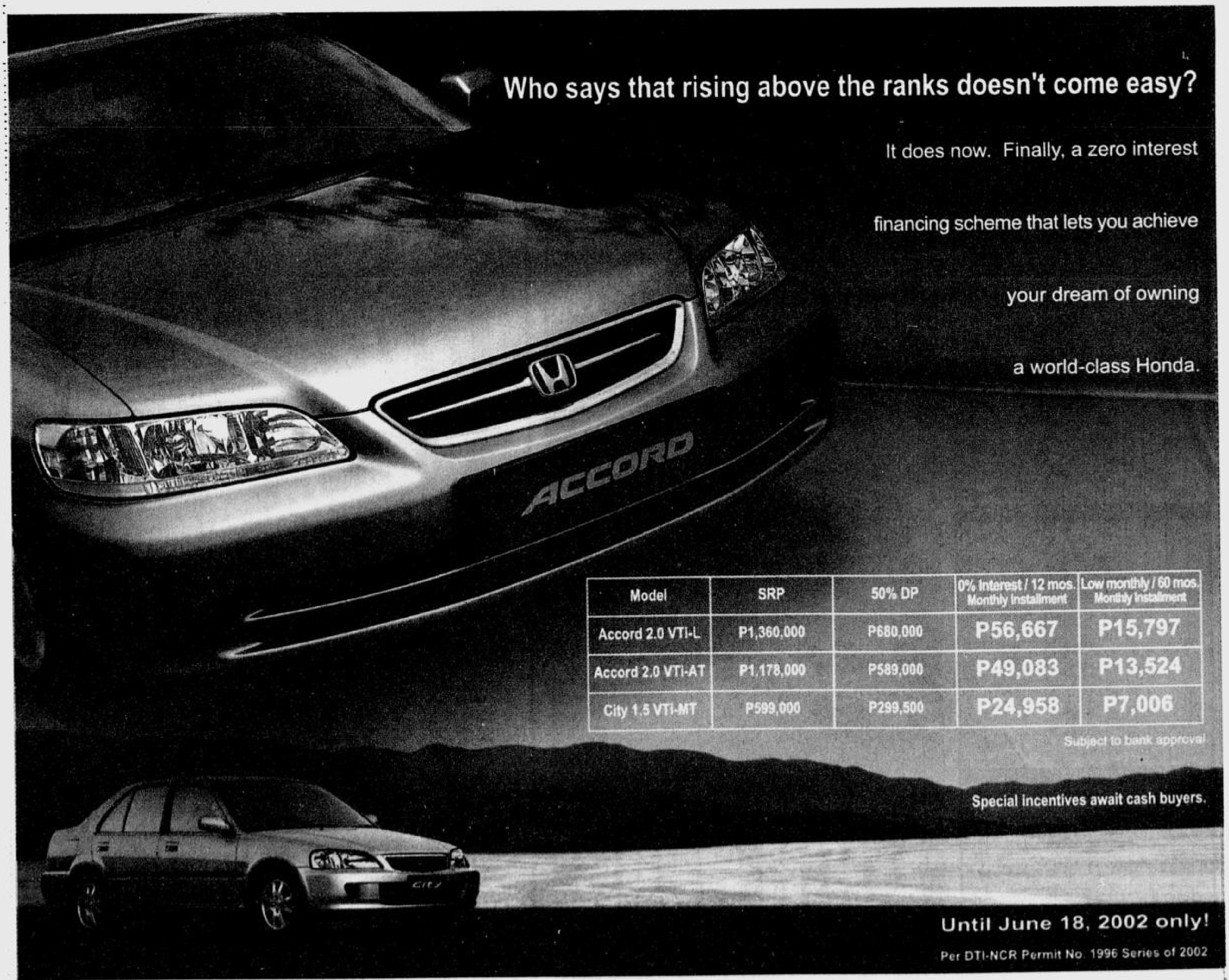

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HONDA

Beauty contestant's booboos

From page A30

Awardee for Visual Art, and president of Lakan Sining ng Bulakan.

Dulaang Talyer

DULAANG Talyer will present **Rolando Tinio**'s comedy of manners, "Isang Buhay sa Tambakan," at 8:30 p.m. on May 22 at Sanctum, Chamber 9, Puerta Isabel II, Muralla st, Intramuros, Manila (near Starbucks).

In the cast are **Mailes Kanapi**, **Teresa Jamiar**, **McCoy Tarnate**, **Nazer Salcedo** and **Bong Antonio**. **Rolando Inocencio** directs. Call telefax 415-6786.

'Revealed with Jules Asner'

E!'s new biography/interview series, "Revealed with Jules Asner," debuted recently on the entertainment channel on its Sunday, 9 p.m. timeslot.

The show delivers the inside stories of and offers new perspectives on some of the biggest names in show business today. Elements include rare screen tests, first professional appearances, successes and failures, plus intimate, candid conversations with the featured stars and the people who know them best.

Upcoming interviews are with **Drew Barrymore**, **Celine Dion**, **Will Smith**, **Mel Gibson** and Destiny's Child. E! Philippines is seen on Free TV Channel 31, Channel 64 on Sky Cable, Channel 58 on Home Cable, Channel 16 on Destiny Cable, and Channel 14 on Dream Broadcasting System.

'Relic Hunter' returns

TIA Carrere returns as Sydney Fox in all-new episodes of 'Relic Hunter' on AXN (Tuesdays at 9 p.m.). In the adventure show's new season, she explores mystical kingdoms and ancient realms, fights criminal elements, and kicks butt.

Incidentally, Carrere is part-Filipino. For proof positive, she confesses to having a craving for chicken *adobo*—but refuses to eat *balut*. Her love for *adobo*, she got from her grandmother. As for her disdain for *balut*—well, that her American side finickily kicking in.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	AKALA MO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	BENEATH LOCHNESS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	STAR WARS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	SPIDERMAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	STAR WARS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	FRUIT IS SWELLING
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	DEATH TO SMOOCHY
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	SPIDERMAN
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	STAR WARS
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	EVA / JOYRIDE
ODEON	STAR WARS
ODEON-2	FRUIT IS SWELLING
ROBEN	SANA TOTOO NA
TANDEM-1	ITLOG
TANDEM-2	IKA-7 GLORYA
TIMES	FROM HELL / D 'TOX
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	SANA TOTOO NA
REMAR	STAR WARS
REMAR-2	SANA TOTOO NA
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	SANA TOTOO NA
B	KAPIRASONG GUBAT . . .
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	STAR WARS: EPISODE 2
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	SANA TOTOO NA
CINEMA-2	BUKANG BIBIG
CINEMA-3	K-PAX
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	STAR WARS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	SPIDERMAN
CINEMA-6	JASON-X
CINEMA-7	VIDEOKE KING
CINEMA-8	SCORPION KING
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	STAR WARS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	STAR WARS
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	STAR WARS
CINEMA-12	SPIDERMAN
CINEMA-14	SPIDERMAN
CINEMA-15	SPIDERMAN
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	SPIDERMAN
CINEMA-2	IN THE BEDROOM
CINEMA-3	STAR WARS: EPISODE 2
CINEMA-4	STAR WARS: EPISODE 2
CINEMA-5	DEATH TO SMOOCHY
CINEMA-6	STAR WARS: EPISODE 2
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

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STAR WARS - GP 12:20, 3:15, 6:10, 9:05	SPIDERMAN - GP 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10	STAR WARS - GP 11:45, 2:40, 5:35, 8:30

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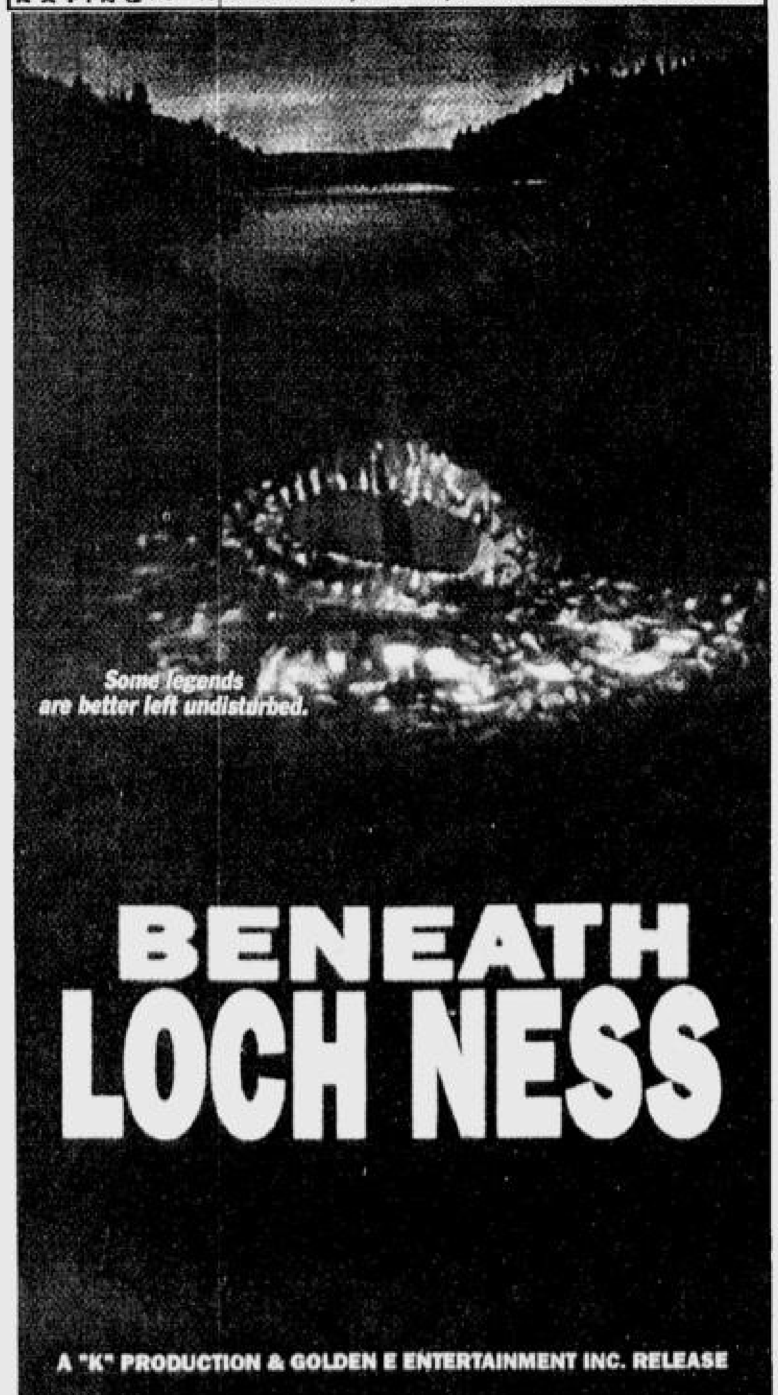
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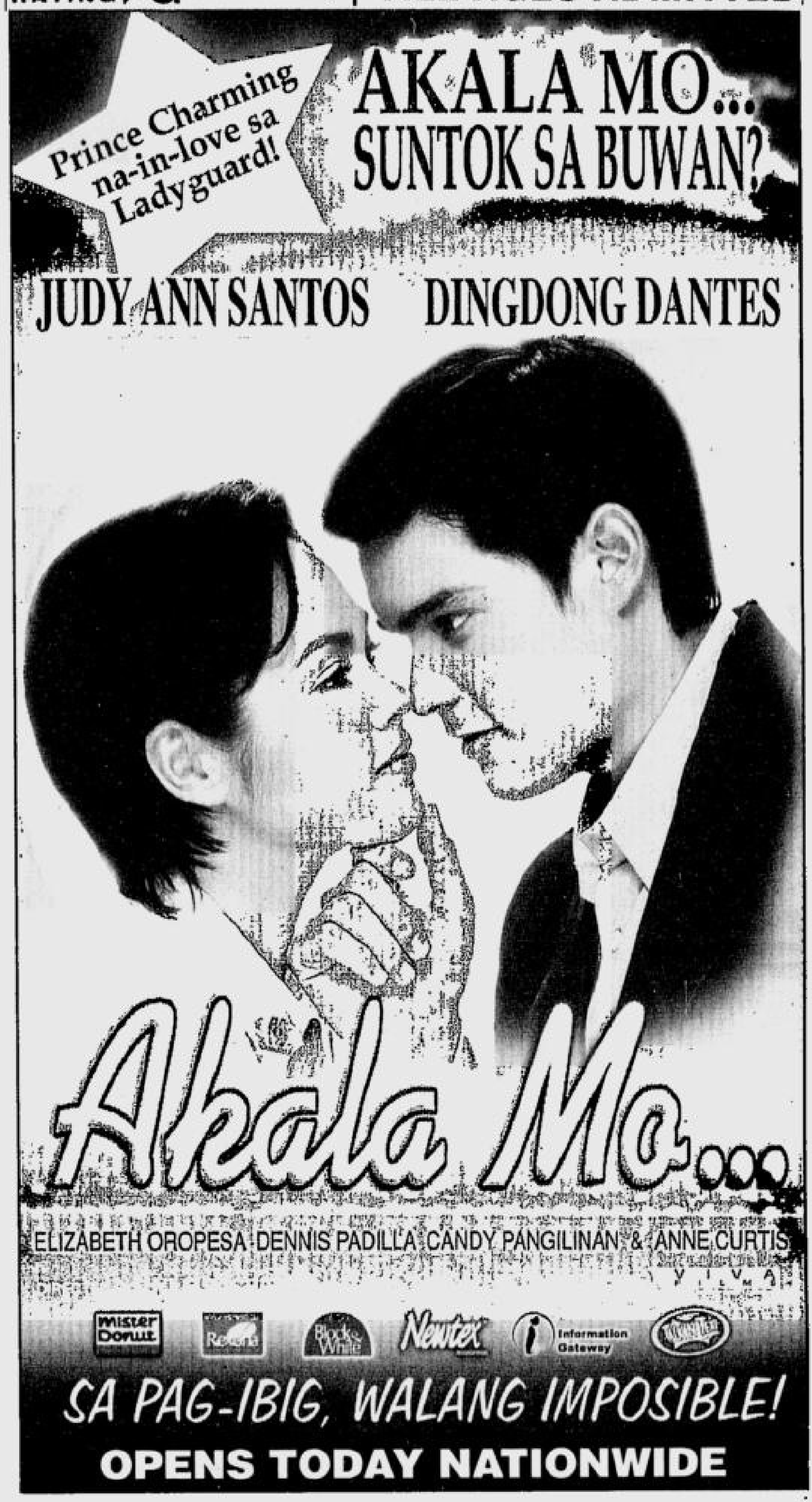
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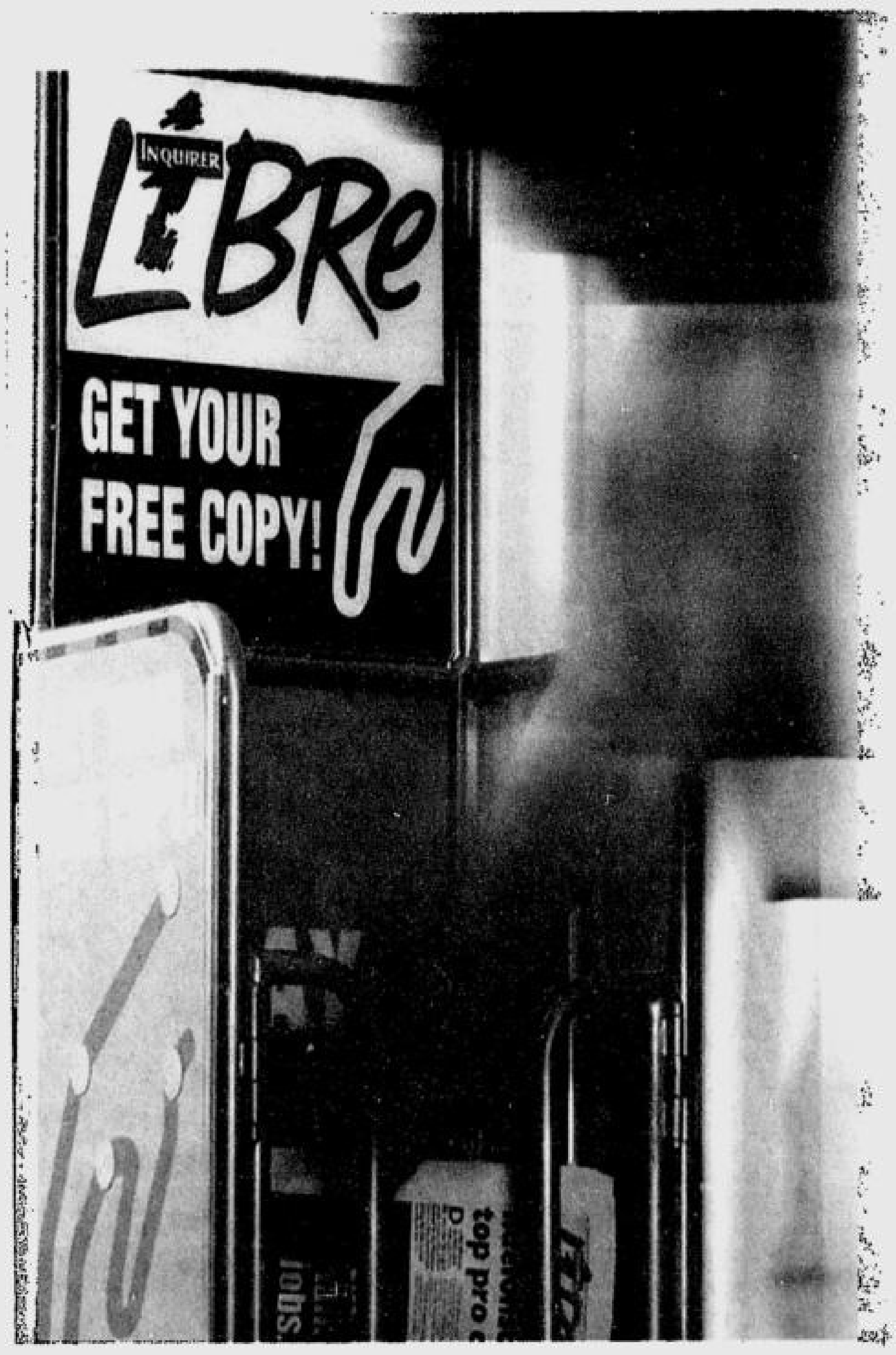

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SIDE A BY THE BAY

The Rotary Club of Makati Buendia presents "Side A By the Bay," a concert on June 14 at the newly opened Le Pavilion along Manila Bay, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. The concert which also features singer-comedienne Marissa Sanches (inset), is a benefit for Sitio Sto. Niño Barangay Cupang in Muntinlupa City. Side A is the pop quintet of (from left) Joey Generoso, Joey Benin, Ernie Severino, Kelly Badon and Naldy Gonzales. Tickets are available at Ticket World, National Bookstore, Robinson's Department Stores in Malate and Galleria, Tower Records (Makati and Alabang), Music Museum, Hyatt Regency Manila and Grand Boulevard Hotel. For inquiries, call 526-8588, local 7226 or 7435.

IBC 13 now a winner, thanks to game shows

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

SEQUESTERED TV station IBC 13 manages to keep up with the network battle despite the dominance of giant networks GMA 7 and ABS-CBN.

Under the new management of chair **Serge Rimonde**, who took over from **Boots Anson-Roa**, IBC 13 recently became more aggressive after surging ahead in the ratings with game shows like "Who Wants To Be a Millionaire" and "The Weakest Link."

Although these game shows are block timers of Viva Television, they have helped IBC 13 rise from its financial slump and mediocre ratings.

Viva TV produces more than five hours of daily primetime programs for IBC 13, from 5:30 to 11 p.m. The station also has the PBA Games, the Viva-produced Tagalog movies and imported telenovelas.

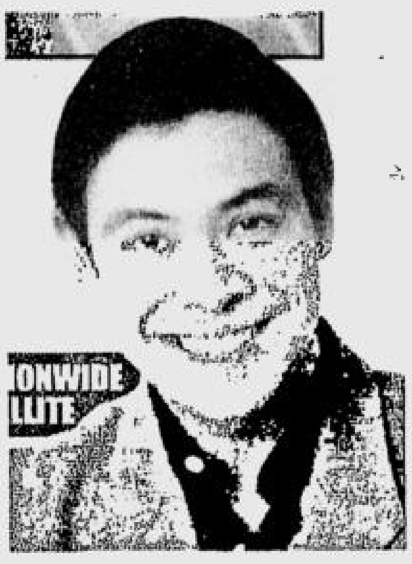
"Viva's entry was very significant for us," says IBC 13 public affairs director **Marietta "Mayet" Camacho**. "It made us the most financially stable among all the government-owned networks (like RPN 9 and NBN 4). We also gained more viewers."

IBC 13 now supplements its monthly income with its earnings from Viva and other block timers, as well as with RPN 9's rental of the facilities.

The Mateo Management Group (MMG) is the block timer for the daily noontime show, "Lunch Break."

Camacho says it helps that the new IBC 13 chair is also a broadcaster and is now chair of the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster sa Pilipinas (KBP).

BERNASCONI



PANGILINAN

"Mr. Rimondè works hands-on even in the monitoring of the programs," Camacho says. "He meets with us regularly and discusses even the particular episodes to be aired in the public affairs programs. He also gives his inputs and suggestions."

While the network was previously beset by strikes from its employees union, there is now industrial peace at IBC 13, according to Camacho.

"We've gone through the worst times and we've weathered the storm. Now we're ready to move ahead."

IBC 13 has decided to beef up its news and public affairs programs.

"The new management is very supportive of news and public affairs," Camacho informs. "The programs which were conceptualized by Boots have been re-evaluated by Mr. Rimonde. The station also enhanced the shows in terms of focus."

"Good Take," hosted by **Ida Marie Bernasconi**, earned for IBC 13 its first Catholic Mass Media Award for best adult educational program. Now on its second year (Thursdays, 11:30 p.m.), it features inspirational and success stories about ordinary people.

"It's our alternative to bad news," says Camacho. "We go as far as Mindanao or the tip of Luzon to show that not all news is bad."

Jarius Bondoc hosts "Linawin Natin" (Mondays, 11:30 p.m.), which focuses on the issues and programs of government.

Noli Eala and former child star **Precious Hipolito** team up in the daily hour-long afternoon newscast, "Express Balita," at 4:30 p.m.

Soon to premiere is "Nora Mismo," a public service program to be hosted by **Nora Aunor**.

Anthony Pangilinan, who also anchors the late-night newscast "IBC News Tonite," will host "People First," a seminar on TV.

IBC 13 also plans to rehabilitate its provincial stations in Davao, Cebu and Iloilo, says Camacho.

Anti-piracy event

ANTI-PIRACY advocates should troop to Dish tonight for a special anti-piracy event, featuring top bands like South Border, Barbie's Cradle and True Faith. The ticket is P200.

Dish owner **Philip Cu-Unjieng** said all ticket sales will be donated to the anti-piracy cause.

Dish, on the 3rd level of Rockwell's Power Plant Mall, also features the new reggae-rock group Indio on Thursdays. Noel Cabangon alternates with the Passage band on Sundays.

'People First' premieres tonight

WHAT do PLDT, the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Informatics and the Eugenio Lopez Center have in common?

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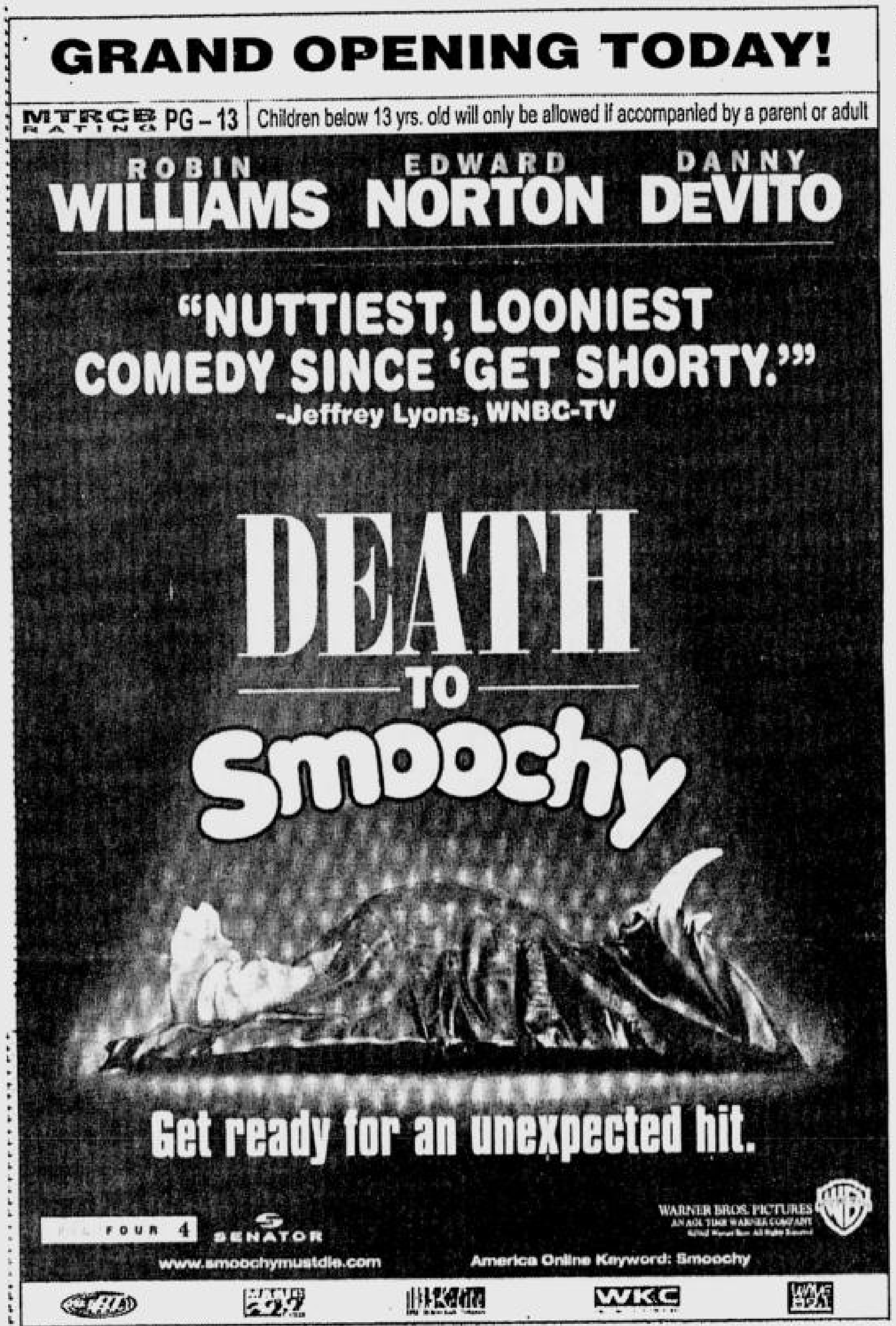
The hour-long show, which will air on IBC 13 every Wednesday at 11:30 p.m. starting tonight, brings a subject generally limited to the workplace, into people's homes to expand the public's knowledge on benefits, training, personal growth and professional development.

"People First," which was picked up from a special aired in 1995, is hosted by newscaster/professional trainer Anthony Pangilinan.



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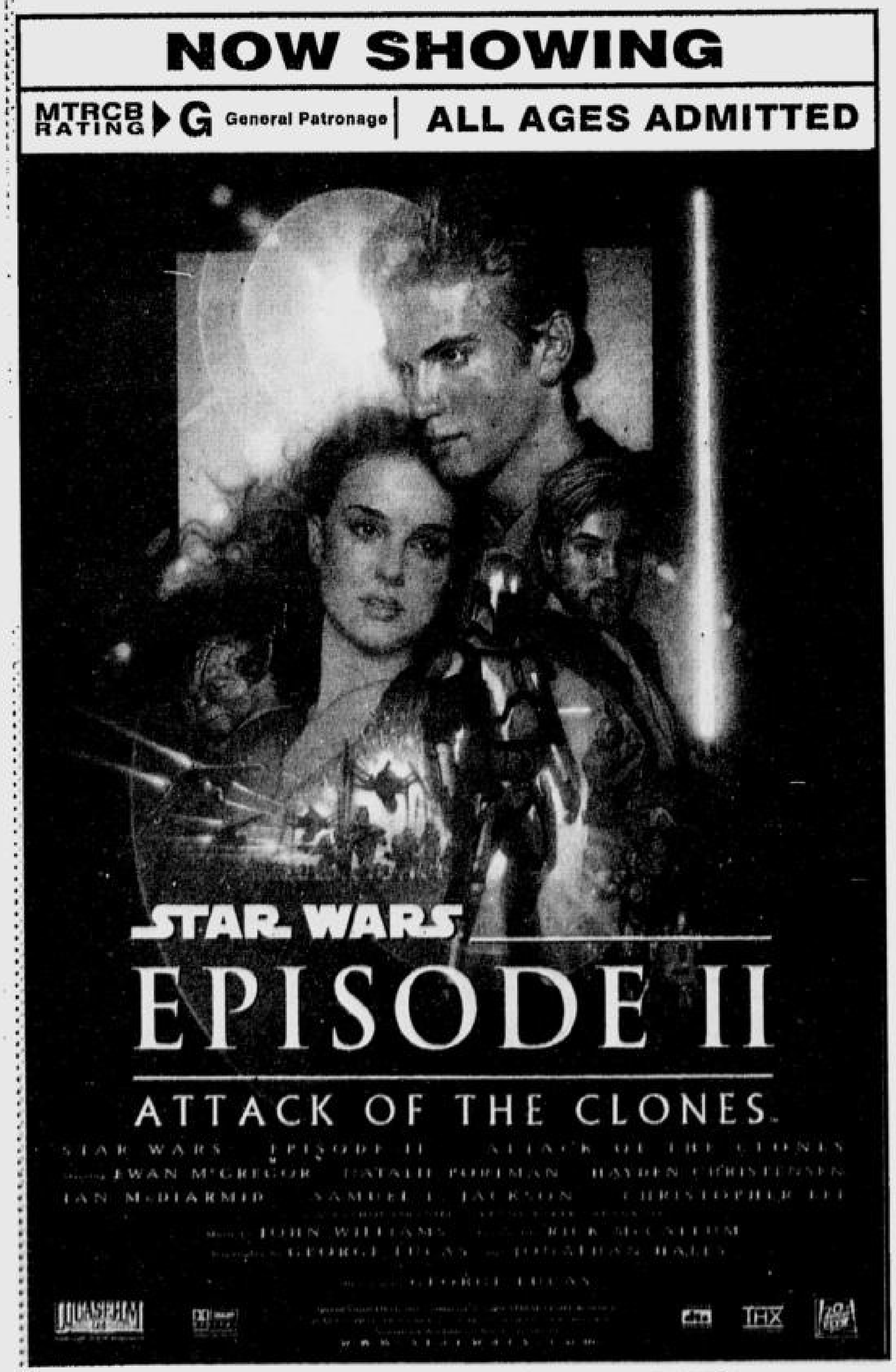

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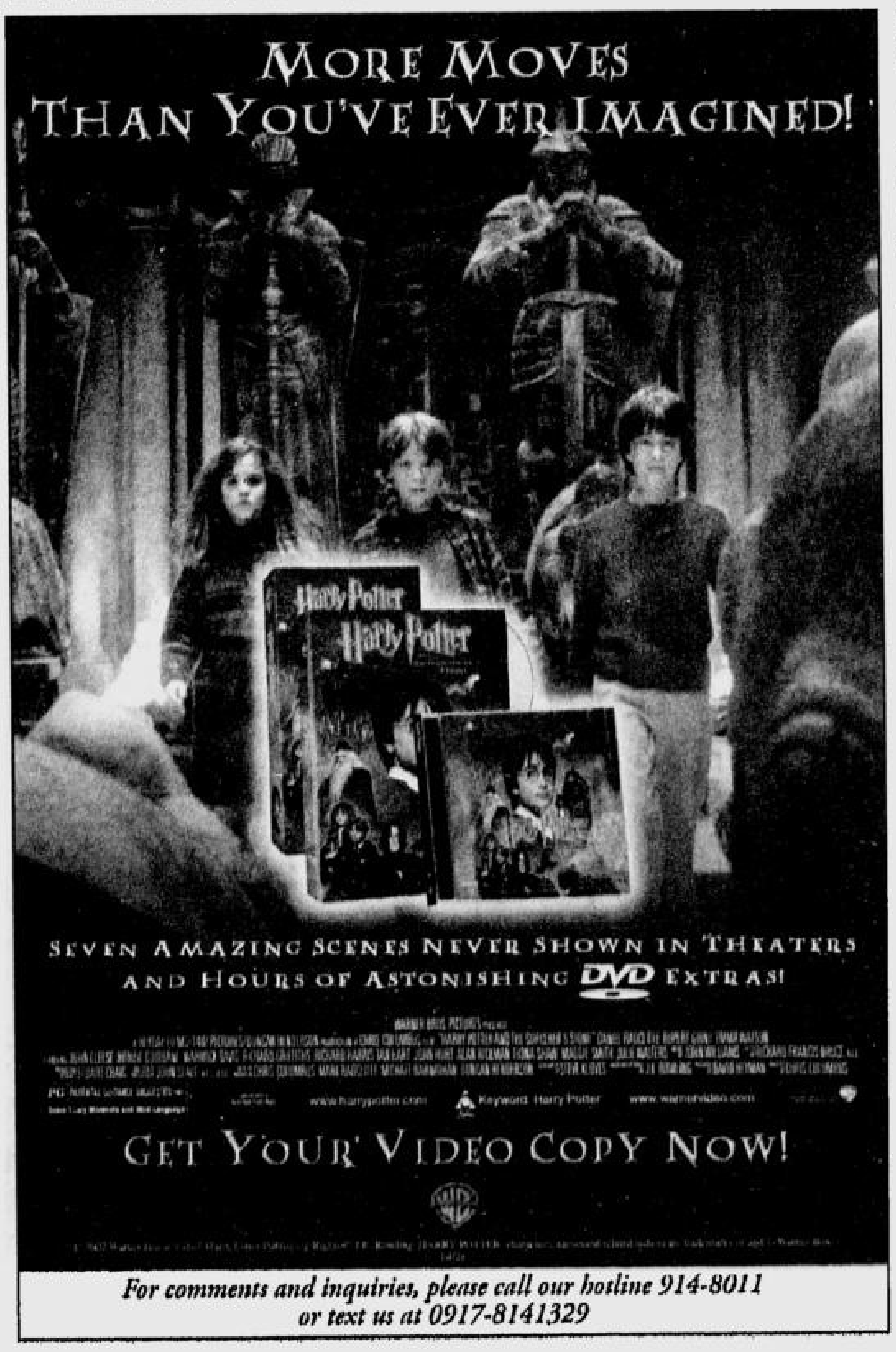

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Beauty contestant's booboos

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

COMPETING in beauty contests used to be a breeze—all you had to do was be beautiful. These days, the process has become so complicated: not only must you look like a million bucks, but you're also got to be brilliant, articulate, concerned about weighty issues, and have the ability of remaining as cool as a cucumber as everything roils and boils around you!

Take the recent "Miss Philippines Earth" competition. Aside from wearing wee bikinis and taking sexy poses, the contestants had to articulate their concerns related to the environment—right then and there, off the cuff, without enough time to organize their thoughts.

The situation was made even more stressful and daunting by the contestants' awareness that many thousands of people were watching them on TV, ready to giggle at their lapses.

Add to that the implied preference for their responses to be made in English, which made the pressure even greater for contestants who were not all that articulate in the King's English.

So, it was entirely understandable that some contestants verbally flailed around, fumbled and clutched at weak grammatical straws as they answered questions related to environmental problems and issues to wit:

"We must take care of our mangrove, as what we take care of our mangrove, as what we take care of ourselves and our motherhood!"

"Too many vehicle on the road, so the result is, it cost air pollution."

"It's one of the most primate species in the whole world."

"Despite her being a very courageous woman, she is very intelligent." (Can't a woman be both courageous and intelligent?)

"In Zamboanga, we see how the Balikatan exercises is exercising with our fellowmen."

"I want to invite all of the listening to our cause."

"To stop the denudation of our remaining forests, we must enforce the 30-ban year log." (Huh?—Oh, you mean the 30-year log ban!)

Movies on Cinemax

MONDAY, May 20 at 7:45 a.m., "Angela's Ashes." 10:15 a.m., "The Phantom of the Opera." 5:15 p.m., "The Screening Room: The 10 Scariest Films Ever Made, Part 1."

Tuesday, May 21 at 7:30 a.m., "Steal This Movie." 2 p.m., "The Screaming Room: The 10 Scariest Films Ever Made, Part 2." 1:50 a.m., "The Nun's Story."

Wednesday, May 22 at 9:15 a.m., "Sorry, Wrong Number." 6:45 p.m., "Cinema Secrets: High Wired." 2 a.m., "Scarface."

Thursday, May 23 at 6:30 a.m., "James Dean." 9:45 a.m., "Running On Empty." 4:30 p.m., "The Master of Ballantrae." 9 p.m., "The Secret Garden." 4:45 a.m., "I'll Never Forget What's 'Is name.

Friday, May 24 at 11:15 a.m., "Millennium Man," 2:15 p.m., "Psycho." 4 p.m., "Celebrity Profile: Goldie Hawn." 1:35 a.m., "Rosemary's Baby."

Cocktail reception

STEVE Raymer will be honored by **Michael H. Anderson,** the Counselor of Public Affairs of the US Embassy, at a cocktail reception tonight.

Raymer, a National Geographic magazine staff photographer for more than two decades, teaches photojournalism, media ethics and international newsgathering at Indiana University. He is also on the faculty of the university's Russian and East European Institute.

He is the author and photographer of "St. Petersburg," a 1994 illustrated book about the imperial Russian Capital; and photographer of "Land of the Ascending Dragon: Rediscovering Vietnam (1997), and of "Living Faith: Inside the Muslim World of SE Asia" (2001).

Raymer has lectured on photojournalism ethics and practice at universities in the United States, Russia, Poland, Malaysia, Singapore and Vietnam.

'Old Churches, Atbp.'

AL Perez will hold his latest one-man art exhibit, "Old Churches, Atbp.," from May 24 until June 6 at 139 Art Gallery, SM Megamall. Internationally, Perez has exhibited his works in New York, Chicago, Honolulu, Japan, Korea, Germany, China, the Vatican and the Middle East.

He is an Araw ng Maynila Cultural

BEAUTY/A28

'NBI Files' dramatizes true crime-busting

By Remy Umerez
Contributor

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation owes a "debt to the people," according to NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco.

That "debt" is the Nida Blanca murder case.

Wycoco said the open case is the only thing the bureau owes the people, and it aims to pay back that debt in full.

That will be something people can watch out for on the "NBI Files," which premiered on RPN 9 this month. The program features the most interesting NBI case files and dramatizes the events leading to the solution of crimes.

In a press conference, Wycoco was quick to dispel rumors that the "NBI Files" is a prop to boost his political plans for 2004.

He also denied that he plans to have his life's story turned into a movie.

The only thing Wycoco said he wants out of the program is to use it to win the support of the people for the bureau.

He believes that it is only with the people's support that the bureau can forge "the most effective law enforcement weapon."

In the pilot episode, Kier Legaspi played a young NBI agent who struggles to follow in his late father's footsteps, over the objections of his family, while tracking down a vicious murderer.

He and his partner collar the criminal after a fierce shootout, and secure a conviction with help from the NBI's forensic department.

Aside from case reenactments, there are segments in the show which will give viewers a close look at how the bureau operates.

"Techno Trends" features the latest technology used by the bureau.

"Case Breaks" deals with the latest developments in cases still under investigation. The segment is anchored by NBI spokesperson Ric Diaz.

"Crime Line" is where viewers are encouraged to submit information on criminals or pending cases.

"Inside the Bureau" takes the viewers on a working tour within the NBI, while "Inside Info" provides tips on how to deal with crime situations.

Produced in cooperation with Solar Entertainment, "NBI Files" is the first and only TV program that enjoys the full backing of the NBI.

Overall project consultant is NBI Deputy Director for Regional Operations and Services Lito Utitco. Wycoco, Asst. Director Diego Gutierrez and deputy directors Fermin Nasol, Fil Bautista, Sammy Ong and Nestor Mantarin, are the program consultants.

Veterans of the bureau also stand behind the scenes.

MUSIC MUSEUM REPEAT
Comedian Allan K holds a repeat of his show, "K na K Ka na Ba," May 24, 9 p.m. at the Music Museum. The comedy revue makes light of the current craze over game shows. It features Allan K playing dual roles as contestant and host alongside all-time favorite Kris Anino. Joining Allan K onstage are Library talents Martin Mijares and Arnell Tamayo. For ticket reservations, call The Library at 522-2484 or Music Museum at 721-0635.

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Shoemart to go public in 4th quarter

By Doris C. Dumlao

SHOEMART Inc., the retail arm of tycoon Henry Sy, is being groomed for a P5-billion initial public offering later this year, making it the third venture of the SM group in the Philippine Stock Exchange for 2002.

The patriarch of the SM group told reporters yesterday after the listing ceremonies of Banco de Oro Universal Bank that Shoemart Inc. was next on the group's IPO line-up.

"We have plans for Shoemart Inc. but there is no definite schedule. That's our next," Sy disclosed. "We are still studying it."

Shoemart holds the SM group's supermarket and grocery operations. It is an anchor tenant and shareholder of mall operator SM Prime Holdings Inc. (SMPH), a consistent market favorite among Philippine blue chips.

Another source said the SM group had started discussions with the PSE on the new IPO. The plan is to offer P5 billion worth of shares by the fourth quarter of the year, the source told the INQUIRER.

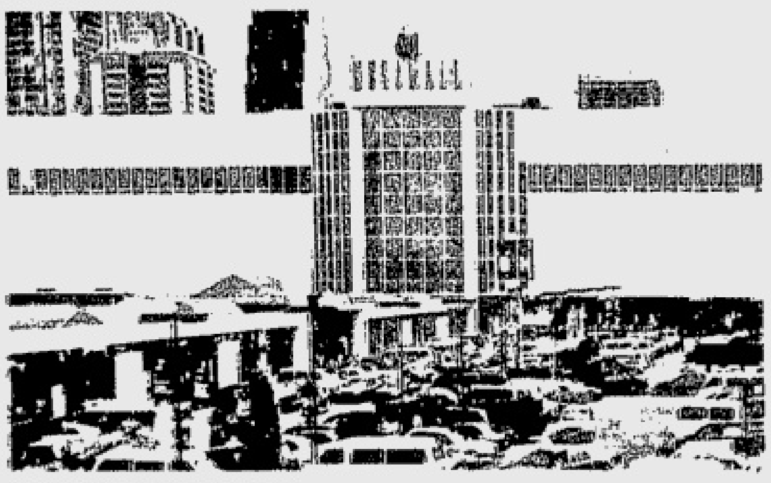
The SM group has so far listed two companies on the PSE this year: leisure estate developer Highlands Prime Inc., which is a spin-off of Belle Corp., and banking arm BDO.

The planned IPO size for Shoemart will top Highlands Prime's P956.9 million and BDO's P1.85 billion. BDO's was already the biggest IPO seen in the local bourse in the last two years.

BDO was the fourth company to list on the PSE this year, after Highlands Prime, Salcon Power Corp. and Citystate Savings Bank.

On top of the two recently listed units, the SM group also owns listed SMPH and property unit SM Development Corp.

Index heavyweight SMPH has a 10-percent weighting in the Philippine basket of Morgan Stanley Capital International (MCSI), an organization which formulates benchmark indices closely monitored by global institutional investors.


MEGA Mall, SM's flagship

PSE chair Vivian Yuchengco welcomed the SM group's plan to list another unit in the local bourse.

"I'm pushing for more IPOs. The only way for this market to go is to have more IPOs because you give the public more shares. What we have now are the usual (issues) like Ayala and San Miguel. You have to give the public more products," she said.

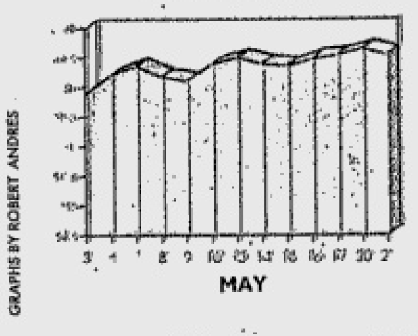
Yuchengco is targeting about 12 public listing on the PSE this year. After BDO, the next slated IPO is that of property developer Jolliville Holdings Corp.

"We're also trying to get BOI (Board of Investments)-registered companies to list. The other thing I want to push is for SMEs (small and medium enterprises) to list. But (PSE president Ernest) Leung has to beef up his listing department as these SMEs are the ones you have to watch out for the investing public," Yuchengco said.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 49.465 = $1
As of 5 p.m., May 21, 2002

¥ 125.64 = $1
As of 5 p.m., May 21, 2002

GOLD: $315.10/315.60
per ounce Hong Kong,
May 21, 2002

STOCK MARKET

Stocks drop 1.14% on PLDT, tech glitch

STOCKS closed lower yesterday as a 5.14-percent drop in index heavyweight Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and a technical glitch, which resulted in a shortened trading, dampened sentiment.

The Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) suspended afternoon trading yesterday due to technical problems, following a power outage that hit Metro Manila and wide areas of Luzon.

STOCKS/ B3

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Bourse to relax listing rule

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange is moving to relax its rule on the listing of additional shares and remove obstacles to pending buy-in deals involving Banco de Oro Universal Bank, Philippine National Bank and Filinvest Land Inc.

PSE corporate secretary Francisco Villaroman yesterday said that in lieu of requiring a stock rights offering to prevent the unfair dilution of shareholders when the controlling group wanted to bring in a new investor, the PSE board was planning to require a waiver that would not prejudice minority shareholders.

"What they are thinking of is that either a minimum of two-thirds or majority of the minority block, whichever is higher, should agree," Villaroman said.

Villaroman said there should not be any impediment to a buy-in deal "if there's already 60 percent (approval) from the majority block plus another 21 percent or majority of minority, or two-thirds vote."

The PSE currently prohibits the listing of new shares if the price at which these shares are issued is beyond a maximum of a 10-percent discount to average market price. Otherwise, the company is required to undertake a stock rights offering.

"The exchange doesn't have the right to impose its own judgment on another company. If the stockholders really want another party to come in, why should the exchange interfere?" he said.

"The main principle that was decided on is that the PSE should not over-regulate and that's what seems to be happening when many of the rules are interpreted literally and without showing any common sense," he said.

Villaroman said the PSE board had given the listing committee two months to overhaul the guidelines.

The same listing rule is currently being debated in the courts involving the case of dormant mining firm Itogon Suyoc Mines Inc., which wanted to list new shares when it sold a 40-percent stake to Philweb.com, the technology holding firm of former Trade Minister Roberto Ongpin.

The Securities and Exchange Commission overruled the decision of the previous PSE board to disallow the listing of the additional ISMI shares, arguing that the bourse had "exceeded its discretion" by refusing to grant the cash-strapped company exemption from the stringent requirements.

For his part, PSE listing committee co-chair William Ang said the stringent rules would adversely affect the BDO, PNB and FLI deals. But in the case of FLI, which issued bonds to a foreign investor that were convertible to common shares, he said the board had already waived the rule.

"We'll have to make some changes in the listing rules. The problem at hand is that there are so many convertible bonds that are being issued right now and definitely they can't go through because of the rules," Ang said, noting that the new rules would apply not only to backdoor listings but to bond issuance cases as well.

BANCO DE ORO LISTING

Henry Sy Sr. (center), chair emeritus of Banco de Oro Universal Bank, rings the opening bell of the Philippine Stock Exchange in Makati City to signal the start of Tuesday's trading as well as the listing of Banco de Oro. With Sy are (from left): Alfredo Reyes, deputy governor of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, and Vivian Yuchengco, chair of PSE. Behind Sy (partly hidden), is Nestor Tan, president of Banco de Oro.

Blackout dampens stock trading

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE UPBEAT mood that most brokers were expecting to greet the public debut of retail tycoon Henry Sy's Banco de Oro Universal Bank yesterday was marred by trading disruptions in the Philippine Stock Exchange.

BDO shares yesterday closed slightly lower at P20.75 from the initial public offering price of P20.80, failing to perk up the sluggish market as stocks trading was suspended twice due to a technical glitch that coincided with the Luzon-wide power failure.

Even the block sale for the secondary shares offering of shareholder BDO Capital was not consummated and only 120,570 BDO shares changed hands yesterday during the shortened trading period, traders said.

BDO offered to the public a total of 89.04 million shares, consisting of a primary and secondary offering equivalent to 32.69 million and 56.35 million shares, respectively. The main underwriter was BPI Capital Corp.

Trading at the PSE was first halted at 9:50 a.m. and resumed at 10:02 a.m. It was halted again at 11:30 a.m., after which PSE corporate secretary Francisco Villaroman announced that there would be no more trading for the rest of the day.

Villaroman said the PSE was not sure yet whether the trading glitch was related to the blackout yesterday, but noted it was one of the possible reasons.

Prior to the trading disruptions, however, the listing ceremonies for BDO proceeded smoothly at the PSE trading floor in Ayala, as the market welcomed the listing of the bank, which conducted an IPO worth P1.85 billion, the biggest in the PSE in the last two years.

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Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	Please Call	2,000,000
Baguio Country Club	700,000	740,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	70,000	100,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	100,000	110,000
Camp John Hay	250,000	280,000
Canlubang	500,000	Please Call
Canyonwoods	Please Call	200,000
Capitol Hills	-	120,000
Celebrity Sports Club	190,000	220,000
Eagle Ridge "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Eastridge "A"	Please Call	Please Call
Evercrest "A"	-	100,000
Forest Hills "A"	200,000	220,000
Forest Hills "B"	230,000	250,000
Forest Hills "C"	250,000	280,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	250,000	260,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	260,000	-
Manila Golf (Corporate)	-	15,000,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	12,000,000	14,000,000
Manila Polo	2,700,000	Please Call
Manila Southwoods "A"	550,000	630,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	700,000	800,000
Metropolitan Club "A"	-	120,000
Montemar (Individual)	30,000	40,000
Montemar (Corp)	50,000	-
Mt. Malarayat	300,000	350,000
Orchard Golf Club "A"	200,000	250,000
Orchard Golf Club "B"	-	250,000
Orchard Golf Club "C"	300,000	Please Call
Pueblo de Oro "A"/"B"/"C"	-	Please Call
Puerto Azul	-	125,000
Quezon City Sports Club	200,000	220,000
Riviera Golf & Country Club "A"	-	Please Call
Rockwell	Please Call	550,000
Sherwood Hills "A"	-	130,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,700,000	1,800,000
Sta. Elena "B"	2,100,000	-
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	-	320,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	170,000
Tagaytay Country Club	410,000	450,000
Tagaytay Highlands	900,000	-
Tagaytay Midlands	780,000	800,000
The Country Club	Please Call	Please Call
Valle Verde (Individual)	150,000	180,000
Valley Golf	240,000	-
Wack-Wack Golf Club	6,700,000	7,000,000

PLAYING RIGHTS (Available Lessors)

Alabang "A"	25,000	Mimosa Golf	25,000
Calatagan "A"	10,000	Orchard "A"	30,000
Canlubang	60,000	Riviera "A"	15,000
Eagleridge	15,000	Sta. Elena	60,000
Eastridge "A"	20,000	Tagaytay CC	20,000
Forest Hills	30,000	Tagaytay Golf	45,000
Manila Southwoods	20,000	Tagaytay Mid.	35,000
Makati Sports "A"	25,000	Valley Golf	20,000
Manila Golf	300,000	Wack-Wack	90,000

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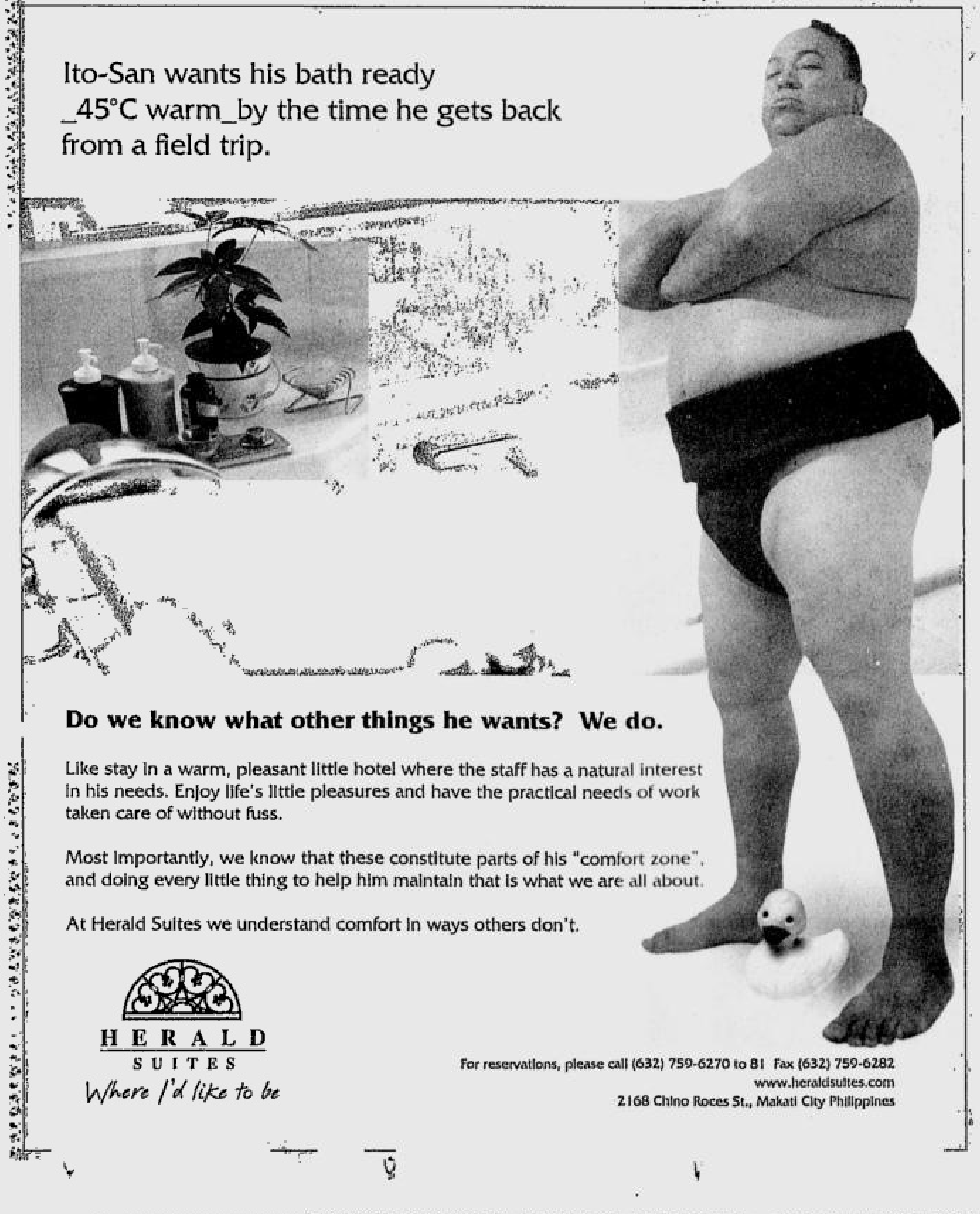

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DISCLOSURES

PHILIPPINE Savings Bank disclosed the resignation of Danilo Dolor as treasurer of the bank but he would continue to serve as director. Also the bank shall transfer its head office from Gil Puyat Avenue to Paseo de Roxas Avenue.

* * *

A.BROWN Co. Inc. will reduce the number of its directors from 11 to seven. Its annual stockholders' meeting will be on June 28.

* * *

LA TONDEÑA Distillers Inc. bought 371,900 of its shares at P34 per share.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **Philippine Holdings Corp.** were Oscar Lopez, Augusto Almeda-Lopez, Peter Garrucho Jr., Oscar Hilado, Elpidio Ibañez, Manuel Lopez, Christian Monsod, Vicente Paterno, Steve Psinakis, Bernardino Abes and Washington Sycip. The company increased its capital stock from 850 million to 1.21 billion with a par value of P10 per share. A 20-percent stock dividend was also declared based on the company's outstanding capital stock.

* * *

THE RECORD date for **Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.**'s pre-emptive rights offering is on June 13, 2002.

Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Tuesday, May 21, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	21.00	21	20.25	20.75	1,205,700
Bank of the Phil. Islands	56.00	56.5	56	56.5	9,800
Equitable PCIBank Inc.	37.00	37	36.5	36.5	62,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co.	41.00	41	39.5	39.5	71,500
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12.00	12	12	12	100
Union Bank of the Phils.	23.25	23.25	23	23	4,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	50,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1405	1405	1405	1405	600
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1050	1050	1050	1050	420
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	.5900	.6	.59	.6	1,670,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	670.0	670	655	655	2,600
Island Info and Tech Inc.	.0390	.039	.039	.039	1,000,000
Piltel	.3400	.34	.33	.34	350,000
Phil. Long Distance Tel. Co.	437.5	437.5	412.5	415	68,240
Philweb.com Inc.	.0170	.017	.017	.017	2,100,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. "A"	25.00	25	25	25	15,100
Manila Electric Co. "B"	38.50	39	38	38	126,400
Petron Corp.	1.76	1.76	1.74	1.76	3,124,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	.9000	.9	.9	.9	240,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	.2600	.26	.26	.26	20,000
Union Cement Corp.	.7000	.71	.7	.71	300,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. "B"	.9000	.9	.9	.9	100,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	.3800	.38	.38	.38	850,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	.4800	.48	.48	.48	50,000
Mondragon Int'l. Phils. Inc.	.2300	.23	.23	.23	200,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	30.50	30.5	30.5	30.5	36,100
Globe Telecom Hldg. (PDR)	810.0	810	810	810	1,000
Jollibee Warrants	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	2,300
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7.20	7.2	7.2	7.2	75,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	6.00	6	6	6	1.000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.25	13.75	13.25	13.75	378.100
La Tondeña Distillers	35.00	36	35	35	2.862.800
RFM Corp.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	30.000
Swift Miguel Corp. "A"	49.00	49	49	49	4.300
San Miguel Corp. "B"	57.50	57.5	56	56	59.500
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg "A"	.3500	.35	.35	.35	10.000
Ayala Corp.	5.80	5.8	5.8	5.8	547.000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.40	2.4	2.4	2.4	735.000
Ajo.net holdings Inc.	.3200	.32	.29	.29	1.340.00
A. Soriano Corp.	.5600	.56	.56	.56	70.000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	.0085	.0085	.0085	.0085	1.000.00
Boulevard Holdings Corp.	.1200	.12	.12	.12	370.000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	.5800	.58	.54	.54	5.090.000
Crown Equities Inc.	.2700	.27	.27	.27	90.000
DMCI Holdings Inc	.2400	.24	.24	.24	100.000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	6.00	6	6	6	5.000
First Phil. Holdings Corp.	26.50	26.5	25	25	274.600
Global Equities Inc.	.1350	.135	.135	.135	20.000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	.5100	.53	.5	.53	120.000
Metro Pacific Corp.	.2600	.26	.26	.26	80.000
Music Corp.	.2150	.23	.215	.23	330.000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	.1050	.105	.105	.105	300.000
Cyber Bay Corp.	.3500	.35	.33	.33	1,100,000
Empire East Land Inc.	.2600	.26	.26	.26	200,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	3.10	3.15	3.05	3.05	981,000
Highlands Prime Leisure	1.82	1.82	1.8	1.8	35,000
City and Land Developers	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	30,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.80	1.82	1.8	1.82	162,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	.0525	.0525	.0525	.0525	2,300,000
SM Development Corp.	1.00	1	1	1	110,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.80	5.9	5.8	5.9	1,160,000
MINING					
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't.	1.60	1.6	1.6	1.6	1,000
Benguet Corp. A	.3000	.3	.3	.3	50,000
Itogon Suyoc Mines Inc.	.0410	.041	.041	.041	500,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. "A"	.2150	.215	.215	.215	250,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. "B"	.2300	.235	.23	.23	800,000
Manila Mining Corp. "A"	.0042	.0042	.0042	.0042	4,000,00
Manila Mining Corp. "B"	.0046	.0046	.0046	.0046	14,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. "A"	.2600	.26	.26	.26	10,000
Philex Mining Corp. "B"	.2900	.29	.29	.29	200,000
OIL					
Interport Res. "B"	.0034	.0034	.0034	.0034	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. "A"	.0034	.0034	.003	.003	40,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. "B"	.0032	.0032	.0032	.0032	20,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. "A"	.1500	.15	.15	.15	50,000
Sinophil Corp.	.0500	.05	.05	.05	1,500,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	1,404,120	32,045,975.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	24,073,040	170,389,210.00
PRO	6,153,000	11,425,040.00
Mining	19,811,000	419,150.00
OIL	62,550,000	275,300.00
GRAND TOTALS:	113,991,160	214,554,675.00

AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	542.63	DOWN 4.59
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,797.03	DOWN 31.74
PRO	607.58	UP 7.02
Mining	1,364.86	UP 40.74
OIL	1.22	DOWN 0.08
All Shares Index	741.71	DOWN 6.70
Composite	1,328.70	DOWN 15.32

NO. OF ADVANCES: 19; NO. OF DECLINES: 32; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 24; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 75; NO. OF TRADES: 945

CURRENCIES

May 21, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.085305	1.000000	49.3360
Japan	Yen	0.008659	0.007978	0.3936
United Kingdom	Pound	1.583677	1.459200	71.9911
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.139164	0.128226	6.3262
Switzerland	Franc	0.688339	0.634236	31.2907
Canada	Dollar	0.703921	0.648593	31.9990
Singapore	Dollar	0.606824	0.559128	27.5851
Australia	Dollar	0.599616	0.552486	27.2574
Bahrain	Dinar	2.878946	2.652661	130.8717
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.289415	0.266667	13.1563
Brunei	Dollar	0.602779	0.555401	27.4013
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000120	0.000111	0.0055
Thailand	Baht	0.025483	0.023480	1.1584
UAE	Dirham	0.295506	0.272279	13.4332
Korea	Won	0.000873	0.000804	0.0397
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.921400	45.4582
Brazil	Real	0.440151	0.404858	19.9741
Denmark	Kroner	0.133494	0.123893	6.1124
India	Rupee	0.022638	0.020425	1.0077
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.291465	0.263193	12.9849
Mexico	New Peso	0.116816	0.105341	5.1971
New Zealand	Dollar	0.503991	0.465506	22.9662
Norway	Kroner	0.132382	0.122353	6.0364
Pakistan	Rupee	0.018473	0.016681	0.8230
South Africa	Rand	0.109430	0.099850	4.9262
Sweden	Kroner	0.108156	0.100105	4.9388
Syria	Pound	0.025341	0.022883	1.1290
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.032117	0.029146	1.4379
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.001107	0.000997	0.0492

HSBC exec sees peso strengthening to 47.50 to $1

By Clarissa S. Batino

FOREIGN bank HSBC Plc. yesterday said the peso would hit a high of 47.50 to 48 within the year due to strong dollar inflows from portfolio investors, overseas Filipino workers' remittance, and the continued recovery of regional currencies against the greenback.

John McGowan, treasurer of HSBC, said the peso's recovery would continue unless there would be "unexpected local shocks" that could disrupt peace and order and create political instability this year.

"The peso would likely touch 47.50 to 48 unless there would be no local shocks and provided that the yen does not weaken all the way back to the mid-130 level. And provided also that the budget deficit would be under control," the HSBC treasurer said yesterday in a regular briefing with reporters.

The peso yesterday closed at 49.465 to $1 from 49.355 the previous day.

McGowan cited the improving confidence of foreign investors in the economic achievements of the Macapagal administration as a key factor to the peso's recovery.

He said that based on portfolio inflows passing through HSBC, the level of the so-called hot money that was being invested in the equities and the fixed-income market continued to go up in recent weeks.

He said foreign portfolio investments to big Asian economies had increased substantially such that during the previous week alone, foreign hot money put into Japan reached $582 million.

"Inflow to the local market had also picked up as more investors believe that the US economy would recover during the second half. That would lead to a similar uptick in Asian exports. As a result, some investors were going for proxy investments by buying into Asian stocks instead of buying expensive equities in the US," McGowan explained.

While the recovery of the US economy may prompt US monetary authorities to start jacking up interest rates and lead to a consequent hike in local interest rates, McGowan said the economic improvements offshore would lead to higher export receipts and, in turn, prop up the Philippine economy.

The HSBC treasurer said there was still sufficient room for medium and long-term local interest rates to go down although the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas may have to slowly bring up the overnight rates from their 10-year low of 7 percent for borrowing and 9.25 percent for lending once the US Fed raises rates late this year.

Short-term domestic interest rates, particularly the benchmark 91-day treasury bill rate, had stayed low at 4.381 percent last week from a record low of 4.299 percent.

"Investors are still looking for higher yield and the local market still offers reasonably attractive yields compared to the others. With more people bullish on the Philippine economy, then more are prepared to invest in longer-term instruments and take more risks," McGowan said.

Sale of Cosmos hikes RFM profit

By Doris C. Dumlao

FOOD and beverage conglomerate RFM Corp. posted P6.25 billion in net profit in the first quarter of the year from only P22 million a year ago mainly due to huge windfall from the sale of profitable soft drink unit Cosmos Bottling Corp.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, RFM president and CEO Jose Concepcion III said the closing of the sale of Cosmos to San Miguel Corp. last January boosted the group's income.

RFM's net gain from the sale of its controlling stake in Cosmos stood at about P6 billion. Part of the proceeds was used to pare down debt while some P2 billion was issued as cash dividend to shareholders last February.

Concepcion said that after the sale of Cosmos, RFM was now banking on its remaining food and beverage brands to provide future growth. He cited the profitable expansion of RFM's other brands like the White King mixes, Fiesta spaghetti and pasta products, Selecta Moo chocolate drinks, Sunkist juice drinks, Swift meat products as well as the Selecta ice cream joint venture with Unilever.

"Volume growth trends have been encouraging during the period and is seen to improve further with the continuous economic upturn in the coming months," Concepcion said.

The RFM chief said the group has been spending aggressively to market these remaining products, the same strategy earlier used to build Cosmos' Pop Cola into a strong soft drink brand.

Stocks . . .

From page B1

"It's because of a computer glitch and the brownout (power cut) affecting major broker offices," a stock exchange official said. A large part of Luzon was blacked out by a power cut, which some officials at the state-owned National Power Corp. said was apparently due to a line fault problem.

"This may have dampened market sentiment as well. The morning session ended earlier by about 30 minutes due to some technical problems," BPI Securities investment analyst Spencer Yap said.

The main index closed down 1.14 percent or 15.32 points at 1,328.70 points. Turnover fell to 114.03 million shares worth P212.637 million from Monday's 194.81 million shares valued at P537.42 million.

Decliners beat gainers 32 to 19 and there were 24 stocks unchanged. *Reuters*

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Labor group hits planned hike in SSS contribution

SAN PABLO CITY—A top official of the Partido ng Manggagawa, a militant labor group, assailed the Macapagal administration and officials of the Social Security System for the planned increase in the workers' monthly SSS contribution to save the financially drained pension fund.

Renato Magtubo, PM chair, stressed that any scheme to keep the SSS financially afloat should not be taken from the workers' meager earnings but from pork barrel funds or the budget for debt servicing.

"The SSS administration and the government should keep SSS solvent not by increasing the workers' contribution but by re-channeling the funds allocated for debt servicing and for pork barrel to social welfare," Magtubo told newsmen during a workers' meeting here yesterday.

Corazon dela Paz, SSS president, said on Friday that the state pension fund for private workers might run out of money to pay for its members' claims by 2012.

She warned that SSS would soon become insolvent and would be unable to pay claims of its 23 million members working in the private sector.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has reportedly instructed SSS officials to hold consultations to convince key sectors to agree to higher contributions from SSS members.

Magtubo said that with the present "starvation" wages, "it is immoral and unjust for the Macapagal administration to reduce the workers' take-home pay to resolve the impending insolvency of the SSS."

"Why must workers bear the brunt of keeping the SSS funds afloat, when it was bled dry not by its beneficiaries but by its previous administrators?" he asked.

Magtubo said the government has the capacity to subsidize the increase in the employees' contributions.

The PM official said that the one-percent increase in employees' contribution yearly would already amount to P18.72 billion, on the assumption that the 24 million members of the SSS are minimum wage earners.

"This would mean a moratorium of barely three weeks in debt payments," he explained. ***Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

TRADERS at the Philippine Stock Exchange fan themselves with newspapers to cool off, as the building runs without air conditioners and the electronic display due to a massive power shortage that hit Luzon. Philippine share prices closed 1.1 percent lower, as the massive power outage forced exchange officials to cancel the afternoon trading, brokers said. The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index shed 15.32 points to 1,328.70.

AFP

Proposed phone interconnection rates opposed

A PROPOSED memorandum circular of the National Telecommunications Commission, which is expected to reduce the rates of landline-to-cellular phone calls, may, ironically, result in increases in cellular service provider Globe Telecom Inc.'s call rates.

Globe is opposing the approval of a proposed NTC memorandum circular that provides for cost-based interconnection rates saying the system was not applicable to wireless or mobile phone operators. It said the system would only jack up its cost.

"Do we have the resources to do this? This will only add to the administrative costs of the carriers that, in turn, will only lead to higher rates," Globe assistant vice president for regulatory matters Froilan Castelo said in a telephone interview Monday.

He added that the long-run incremental cost (LRIC) structure provided in the circular was applicable only to fixed line providers.

In an interview yesterday, NTC chief Eliseo Rio Jr. said the proposed circular could eventually lead to lower landline-to-cell phone rates as the new rates would be based on the cost of infrastructure rollout, which is lower for fixed line operators than for mobile phone operators.

He said this could encourage people to make more landline-to-cellular phone calls. With the existing rates, people opt to make cellular-to-cellular calls, which are currently cheaper than landline-to-mobile phone calls.

"With the cost-based rates, fixed line-to-cellular phone call rates would drop, but rates charged in rural areas might increase. While we can't define what cost-based rates are, we should already have a pricing regime for wholesale interconnection," he said.

Rio explained that the existing interconnection rates were based on retail pricing and not on actual costs.

"All public telecommunications entities (PTEs) are treating each other as end-users. There should be a wholesale pricing regime for PTE-to-PTE rates. A (cost-based) retail pricing scheme for PTE-to-end-user could later follow," he said.

Since the NTC has yet to reach an agreement with telecommunications companies and consumer groups on the proposed circular, Rio said an "interim arrangement" should be worked out. The agreement should be based on existing retail charges. A wholesale pricing scheme will be a good first step. ***Abigai L. Ho***

GOINGS-ON

Best express service

DHL Worldwide Express was recently named the Best Express Award for the 16th year and the Best Warehouse Operator at the Asian Freight Industry Awards 2002.

The AFIA is organized by Cargonews Asia, the leading industry magazine in the region. The awards are given in recognition of excellence in performance in 37 categories by industry peers and customers through individual ballots sent to Cargonews Asia readers.

Also, the latest INSEAD report entitled "Measuring Competitiveness Fitness of Global Firms 2002" also awarded DHL the highest ranking of "above world class."

Seminar on operations

THE UPGRADE Business and Management Center (631-32-38, 631-51-05, e-mail: pirc@compass.com.ph) will hold a whole-day seminar on operations, analysis and capital budgeting on May 25, 2002, Saturday, starting 8:30 a.m. at the Heritage Hotel Manila, Roxas Boulevard cor. Edsa, Pasay City.

It will tackle the following topics: cost concepts and classifications; cost-volume profit analysis; pricing; key concepts in capital budgeting; project evaluation methods; and guided walk-through of capital budgeting.

Professional enhancement

THE CORPORATE Center for Professional Enhancement will conduct a whole-day seminar on human resources management on May 25, 2002, Saturday, starting 8:30 a.m. at the Heritage Hotel Manila, Roxas Boulevard cor. Edsa, Pasay City.

The topics to be discussed are the following: introduction; structural aspects of human resources; compensation administration; labor relations; conduct and discipline; human resource development; personnel policy and planning; review, audit and performance appraisal; human resource research; and case analysis and practical exercises.

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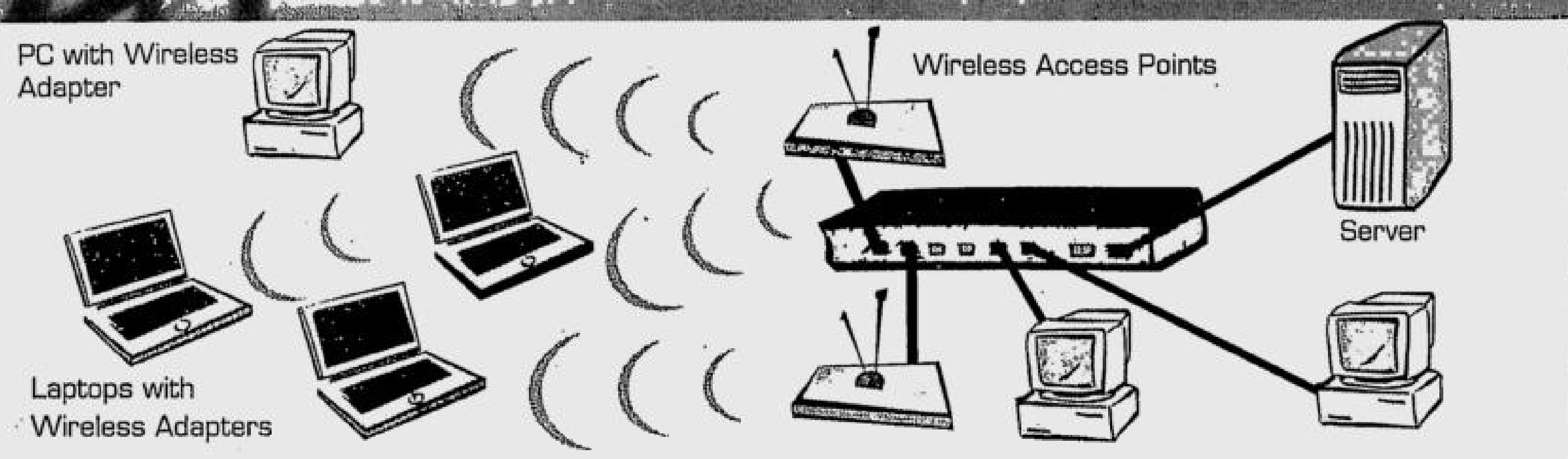

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3 If more than 1 Access Point (Base Station) is needed, ensure that they are of different channels

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Choose your wireless products smartly. Select those with functions that allow you to survey the site, check for signal quality, transmission speeds and channels that are in use. A little patience goes a long way when it comes to setting up a Wireless LAN as it takes slightly more time to configure in order to achieve optimum performance. However, the final outcome is certainly well worth the effort.

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Dreamchum Computer	410-3714
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Insurance industry seen consolidating

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE PHILIPPINE insurance industry is likely to continue its consolidation in the next few years, as more foreign insurance firms pull out of the country to focus on China and India, while small local insurance firms merge to survive tightening competition.

Sun Life of Canada (Philippines) Inc. assistant vice president for marketing Alex Narciso said the insurance business was likely to remain in choppy waters in the next few years, as sluggish economic growth, tight competition and high cost of penetrating their markets take their toll on weak-kneed players.

Narciso said more foreign insurance firms that came here under a liberalized environment would likely follow the lead of Met Life, Aegon and All State—which was acquired by Prudential Life—and pack their bags to focus on doing business in China and India.

A number of foreign insurance firms have found it difficult and more costly to penetrate the Philippine market.

"They'd rather focus on China and India with their population of 1.2 billion and one billion, respectively, than the Philippines, which only has 75 million."

But Sun Life, which has been in the country for more than 100 years, is unique among foreign players because its Philippine operations have been fueling the company's expansion in China and India," he said.

He said he also expected small local players to consolidate their operations, especially with the broadening reach of foreign players in their traditional bailiwicks.

Small insurance firms have survived by focusing mainly on niche markets where personal relations rather than a multinational corporation's reputation are more important to potential clients, he said.

But he said small firms were unlikely to sustain their market hold for long, with big players stepping up their expansion in the provinces.

Consolidation is inevitable since three major players—Philippine American Life, Sun Life and Insular Life—have cornered 65 percent of the market and that the rest of industry has been fighting for a shrinking market share, he said.

He said Sun Life's market share ballooned from 16 to 21 percent over the last seven years, and this was achieved at the expense of small players.

Narciso said while the liberalization of the insurance industry boosted the number of Filipinos with insurance policies from 12 percent in 1995 to 18 percent at present, this was still way behind the 25- to 30-percent rate in comparable Asean economies Thailand and Malaysia.

He noted that the Philippines' 18-percent rate did not take into account individuals with multiple policies, which should put the insurance coverage at a lower percentage.

While there are now more players—there are roughly 40 firms in the business, with 15 foreign-owned—and more products offered to consumers, Narciso says most Filipinos can still not afford an insurance policy since domestic economic growth lags behind its neighbors.

GMA says new port to boost M'nao economy

TAGOLOAN, Misamis Oriental—President Macapagal-Arroyo said last week that economic activities in Northern Mindanao would be boosted further by the completion of the $85-million Mindanao Container Terminal Port (MCTP) project at the Philippine Veterans Investment Development Corp. (Phividec) Industrial Estate here in 2004.

The first phase of the project, which is funded by a P2.7-billion loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) under the RP-Japan Special Yen Package, started in January and is being undertaken by a consortium composed of Mitsubishi, Kawasaki and Toyo companies.

The loan is payable within 40 years with a grace period of 10 years. It bears an interest rate of one percent per year.

The country's equity participation in the project is about P487 million.

In her visit here last Wednesday, Ms Macapagal said the completion of the MCTP would also turn Northern Mindanao into a transshipment hub for goods from and to Visayas and Mindanao.

She said this would enhance the mobilization of goods and strengthen the economic, social and cultural linkages between the reactivated Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East Asean Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) and other countries in Asia, including Japan.

"We are here to mark another achievement of Misamis Oriental and Cagayan de Oro as lead players in Mindanao's development," Ms Macapagal said.

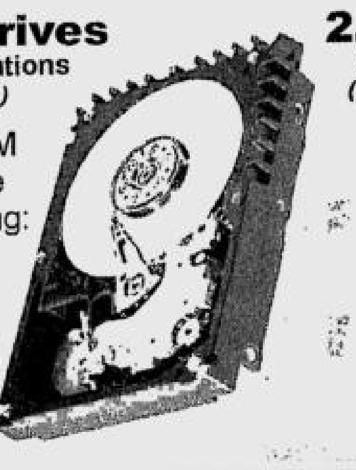
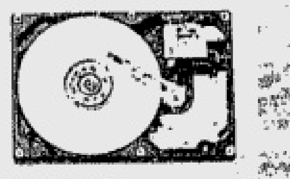
She said the port would also boost the capabilities of the Cagayan de Oro-Iligan Corridor Special Development Project, which is the investment and growth area for Northern Mindanao.

Under Phase 1 of the project, the Japanese consortium will develop a 300-meter wide seaport and containerized cargo terminal capable of handling 270,000 container vans every year.

The project also includes the installation of two gantry cranes, weighing bridges for incoming and outgoing cargoes, a truck holding area and a container yard.

After its completion in 2004, the MCTP, which has a total land area of 30.8 hectares, will have a wharf length of 400 meters and a berthing depth of 12 m.

For the second phase, the Japanese consortium will construct the Mindanao Food Terminal, to be jointly operated by the National Food Authority, the Philippine Ports Authority and the Phividec Industrial Authority. *Grace C. Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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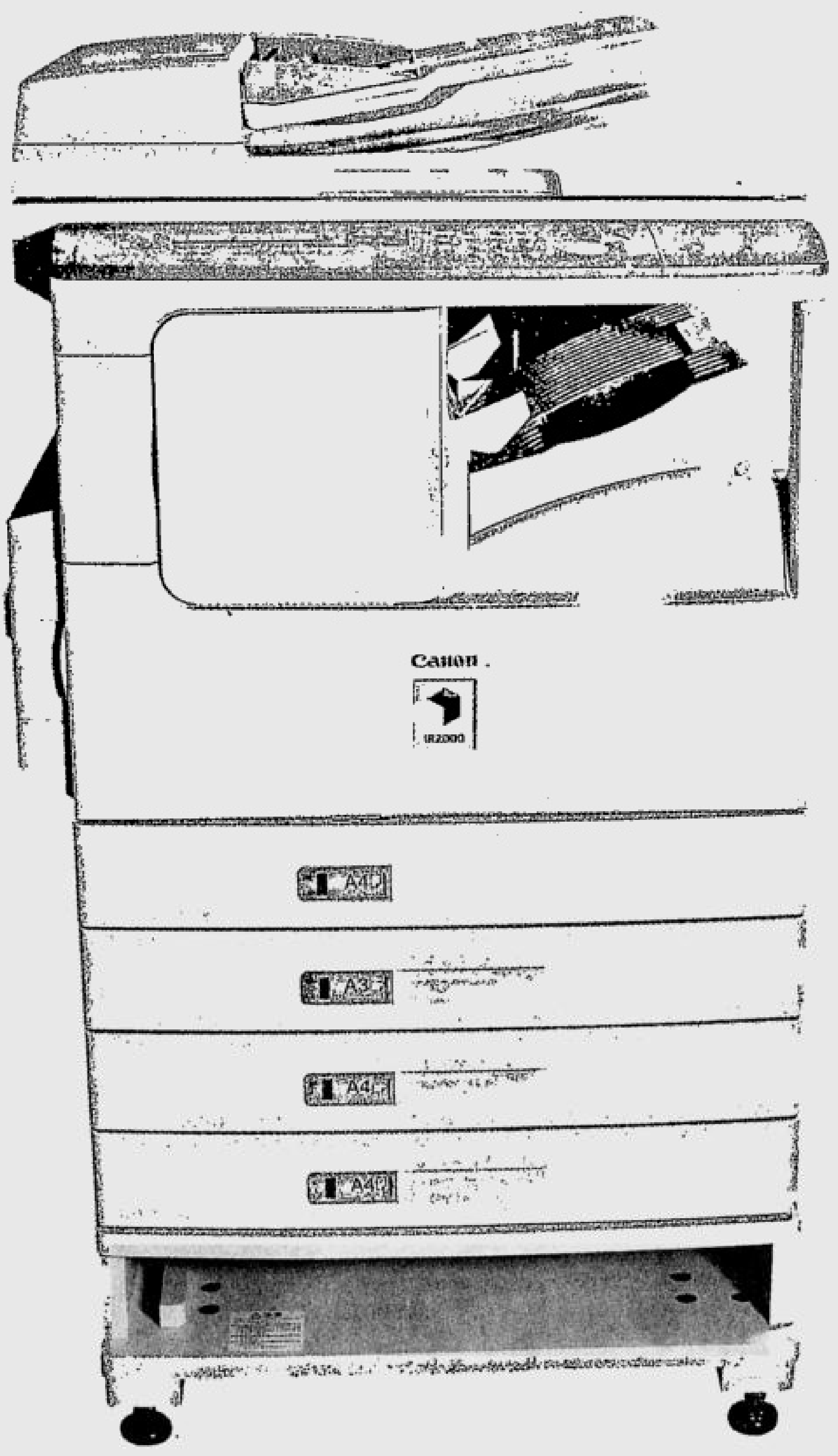

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BOJ policy kept, as worst seen over for Japan

TOKYO—The Bank of Japan left its monetary policy unchanged on Tuesday amid signs of a bottoming out in the economy, shrugging off a fresh call by Finance Minister Masajuro Shiokawa for a further easing to ensure a full recovery.

The BOJ's Policy Board maintained its reserves target at 10 trillion to 15 trillion yen ($79.75 billion to $119.6 billion) after a series of easing steps since March 2001 that lowered interest rates to near zero and ensured that virtually unlimited funds to the market from the central bank will keep flowing.

The nine-member board, which also kept policy unchanged at its April meeting, decided to keep its monthly buying amount of Japanese government bonds at one trillion yen and reiterated its pledge to offer even more liquidity in times of crisis.

The decision was made by unanimous vote at the end of the two-day meeting.

The government had been seen supporting an unchanged policy, particularly after upgrading its economic assessment last week to say that the economy had bottomed out on the back of exports.

Revised economic data lent credibility to a positive outlook after the Cabinet Office revised its March diffusion index of leading economic indicators to 81.8 from a preliminary 80.0.

It was the first time the index rose above the neutral 50 reading in 15 months.

But earlier in the day, Shiokawa urged the BOJ to ease policy.

"The economy is getting a bit better, slightly firmer, but I want the BOJ to ease its monetary policy further," Shiokawa said.

"The BOJ will be the one to decide, and some people may call it the minister's 'idiot's one-liner,' but I think it's needed for Japan's economy," he told a news conference.

In contrast to Shiokawa's comments, Economics Minister Heizo Takenaka said he saw no need for the BOJ to ease.

"It is my basic understanding that conditions do not warrant a change in the near term," Takenaka told a news conference.

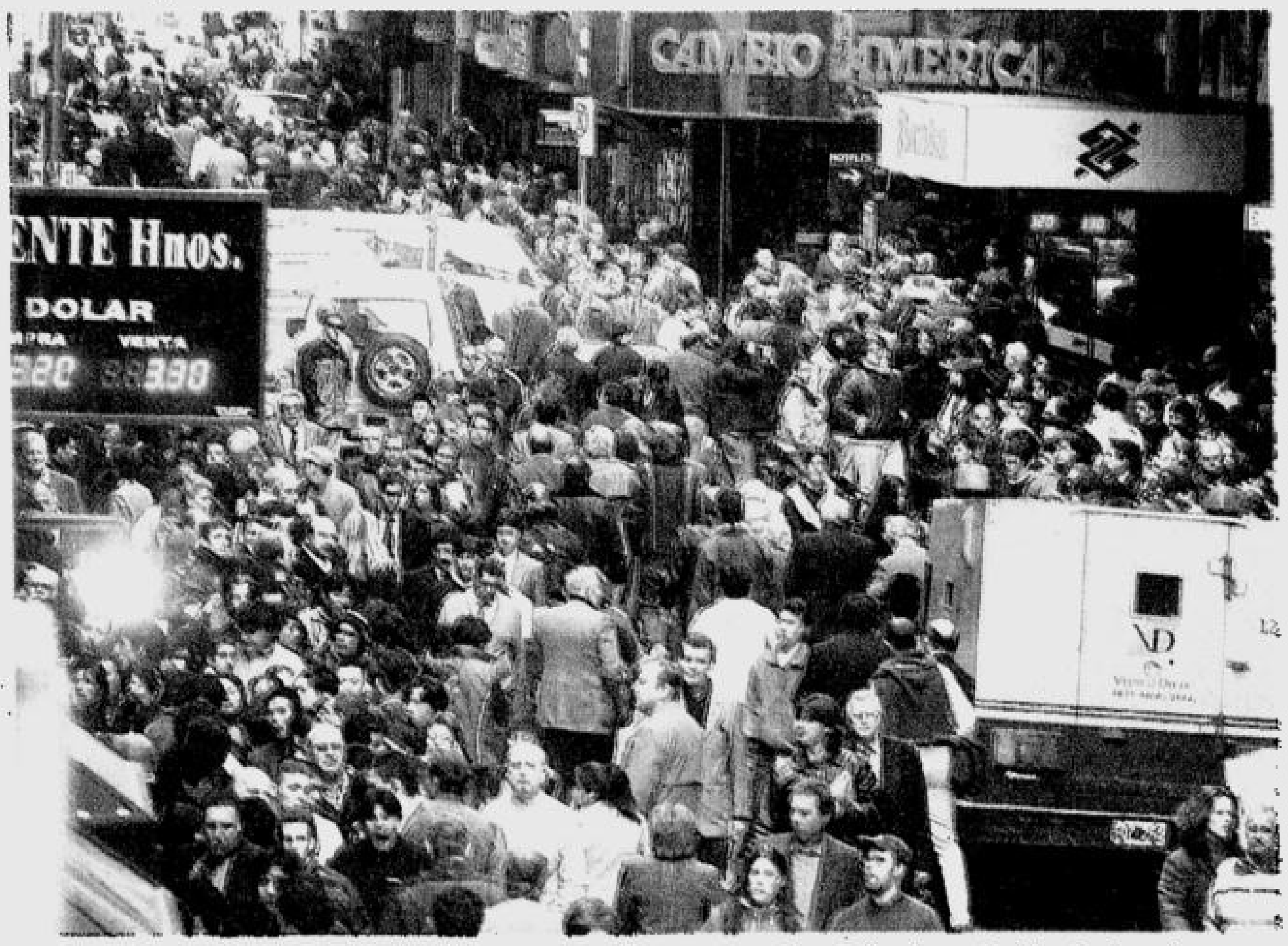
Shiokawa's comments appear to reflect worries that recent improvements in the economy are based almost solely on a pick-up in exports and that Japan continues to suffer from a wide range of internal weaknesses—chiefly three years of deflation and a banking sector laden with bad debt.

Details of the two-day discussion were not immediately available, but economists said the BOJ had also focused on risks haunting the economy rather than signs of benefit from recovering exports and inventory reduction.

"The economy looks like it's stopped deteriorating, but in reality Japan is still suffering from serious deflation," said Tomoko Fujii, senior economist at Nikko Salomon Smith Barney.

Japan's core consumer price index, which has fallen for three straight years, fell 0.7 percent in April from a year earlier.

It is showing little sign of tracking the hefty rise in the monetary base, or funds the BOJ supplies to the banking system. *Reuters*



LONG rows form to buy dollars in the financial district of Buenos Aires following a decision by French group Crédit Agricole to stop its investments in Argentina. AFP

Thailand backs Australia, NZ membership in Afta

BANGKOK, Thailand—Thailand backs the desires of Australia and New Zealand to join Southeast Asia's free trade pact, Australian Trade Minister Mark Vaile said Monday.

Vaile, on an official trip to Thailand, met Monday with Commerce Minister Adisai Bodharamik and Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra. Thaksin is due to travel to Australia next week.

Speaking at a news conference after the meetings, Vaile said Thaksin assured him that his administration agreed with the previous government's support for Australia and New Zealand to join the Asean Free Trade Area.

Asean, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, comprises Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, the Philippines, Brunei, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam and Myanmar, also known as Burma.

The group's free-trade area was launched Jan. 1, and will gradually reduce tariff barriers. *AP*

Manufacturers of video game consoles slash prices

LOS ANGELES—The video game industry is setting its sights online after a flurry of console price cuts that will put the focus less on the hardware itself and more on giving consumers reason to get hooked.

The big three machine makers—Microsoft, Sony and Nintendo—are hoping people will be willing to pay subscription fees for multiplayer interactive games. They're unveiling plans to allow play across time zones and even language barriers using high-speed Internet connections.

While the hype will run thick at this year's Electronic Entertainment Expo, many analysts say online games will take a few years to become more than a niche market.

Olhava and others believe online gaming will truly take off in 2004 or 2005, when the next generation of consoles rolls out and high-speed Internet is more pervasive.

"Right now, the goal is to create content to drive people who own the consoles to buy more games and, more importantly, drive people who don't own consoles to buy one," Olhava said.

Microsoft's online gaming network, called Xbox Live, is being offered for an introductory fee of about $49 a year, though officials weren't saying what they expect to charge after that.

The offer includes a headset that enables users to talk to one another via their Xbox consoles' broadband connection, effectively creating a phone service during gameplay.

Players can choose online nicknames and locate friends via a "buddy list," while the system maintains a record of their achievements and failures.

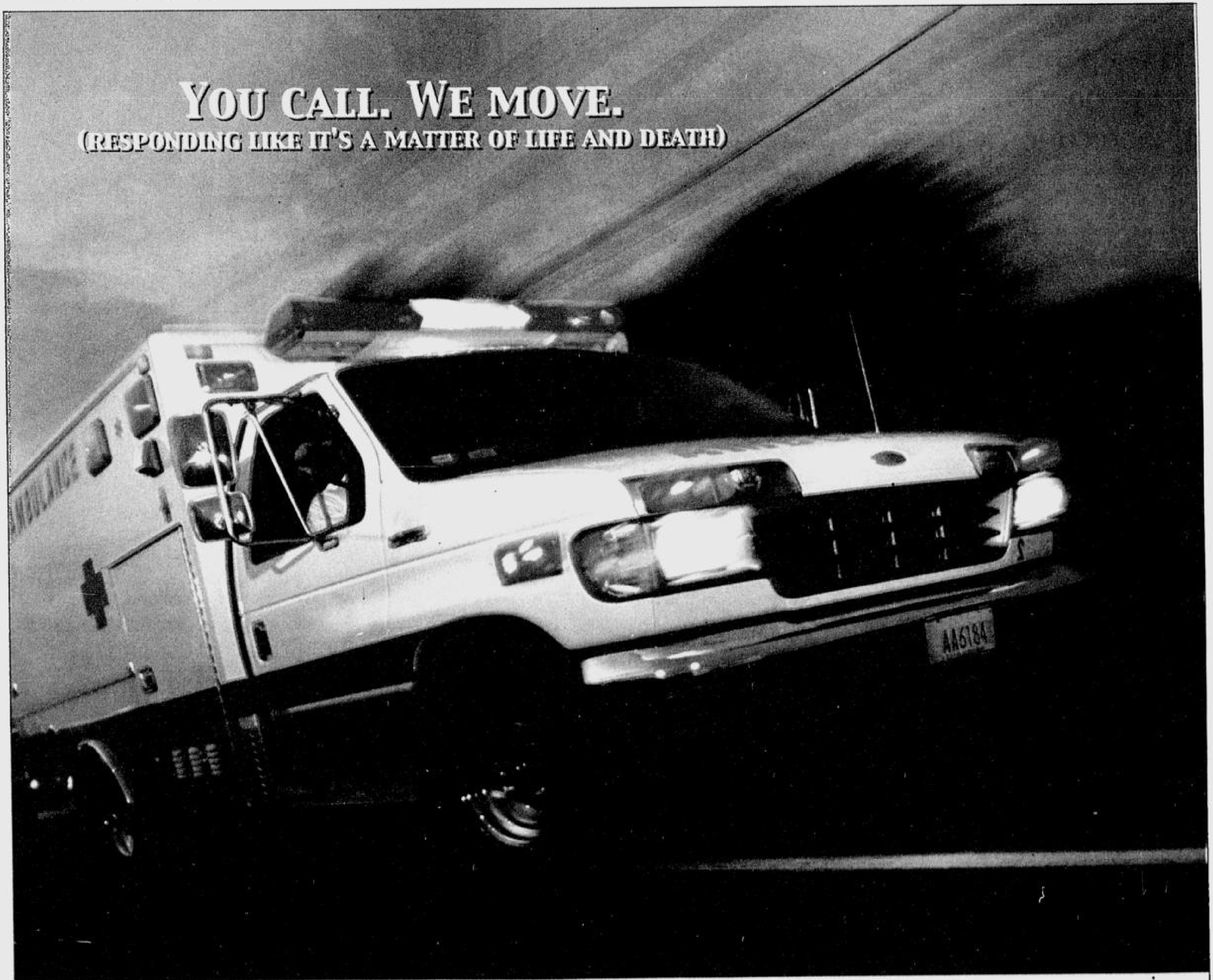
Microsoft said it would invest $2 billion in the Xbox, much of it to develop the online game network. Robbie Bach, the company's chief Xbox officer, said almost half of the nearly 3.5 million Xbox owners had broadband Internet connections.

Later this week, software companies were expected to unveil versions of games for the Xbox network as well as Sony's Playstation2, which would provide online access later this year.

Unlike Microsoft's approach, Sony will not charge a subscription fee and will rely on the open Internet instead of its own closed network for interactive gaming.

Nintendo will start shipping modem and broadband adaptors later this year, but has downplayed the importance of online video-gaming in the short term.

Nintendo's GameCube has shipped about 4.5 million units worldwide so far. PlayStation2 is the clear industry leader with more than 30 million units sold worldwide. *AP*



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WTO to test no-go areas–Supachai

HONG KONG—The incoming chief of the World Trade Organization set bold targets on Tuesday for the Doha global trade talks, saying members would tackle agriculture subsidies head on and open new, sensitive areas to WTO oversight.

"We are trespassing into the non-trade areas within the Doha round, we'll be seeing negotiations in areas of trade and environment, we'll be looking at the social dimension of globalization," the former Thai deputy prime minister, Supachai Panitchpakdi, said in a speech in Hong Kong.

Supachai takes up his post on Sept. 1 against the backdrop of a fight between the United States and European Union over US steel import tariffs, an argument now spilling over into long-term disagreements over agricultural subsidies.

At the same time, he faces criticism from many quarters that the rules of the 144-member WTO favor industrialized countries at the expense of the undeveloped world.

WTO members agreed last year in Doha, Qatar, to begin a global round of trade talks with a target of January 2005 for a new deal.

Agriculture subsidies and import tariffs are thorny issues for many countries who justify protection for their farm produce on food security grounds.

The Doha trade round aims to reduce import tariffs on goods, open markets wider to services and boost market access for products from poorer countries.

Areas considered taboo and which were handled separately by the WTO in the past, such as agriculture and textiles, will come under the Doha microscope, said Supachai, who will replace the current WTO director general, New Zealander Mike Moore.

"(On agriculture) we are going to negotiate down domestic subsidies and try to eliminate export subsidies," Supachai said, adding that broad brush aims by WTO member countries to liberalize the agricultural sector so far were too vague.

Supachai said the WTO would attempt to accelerate the phasing out of all textiles quotas ahead of a current 2004 target and prevent the invention of new non-tariff barriers after that.

Supachai warned that the WTO was poised to open up new areas for global agreement—such as service sectors currently regulated by individual countries.

"We are opening up a new realm altogether. We are touching upon the raw nerves of participating countries," he said.

Supachai said the Doha round will examine investment and competition rules and work at preventing huge multinational companies from dominating smaller economies. ***Reuters***

Ernst & Young violated auditor independence rules, SEC claims

WASHINGTON—US federal regulators alleged on Monday that big accounting firm Ernst & Young violated rules designed to keep accountants independent from the companies they audit by engaging in business with a software company client.

The issue of auditor independence is among those at the heart of the Enron affair, which has raised questions about Enron's longtime accountant, Arthur Andersen, having done both auditing and consulting work for the energy-trading company.

Like embattled Andersen, Ernst & Young is a "Big Five" accounting firm.

In an administrative proceeding, the Securities and Exchange Commission said Ernst & Young was auditing the books of business software maker PeopleSoft Inc. at the same time it was developing and marketing a software product in tandem with the company.

The SEC said the product, named EY (for Ernst & Young)/GEMS for PeopleSoft, incorporated some components of PeopleSoft's proprietary source code into software previously developed and marketed by Ernst & Young's tax department.

The SEC alleged that Ernst & Young tried to gain a competitive advantage by putting the source code into its product and agreed to pay PeopleSoft royalties of 15 to 30 percent from each sale of the product. ***AP***

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EDMUNDO (BABY) DE LA PAZ-ONGSIAKO, SR.

Peacefully joined our Lord on May 17, 2002

He is survived by his wife **Hideliza (Delly) Tambunting-Ongsiako**; children **Antonio Ramon (Tonyboy) T. Ongsiako**, **Edmundo** and **Natividad (Vida) Maronilla**; **Margarita (Gaita)** and **Emmanuel Tan-Climaco**; grandchildren **Regina Angela M. Ongsiako**, **Michelle O. Tan-Climaco**; brothers and sisters **Oscar** (†) and **Norie Villanueva-Ongsiako**, **Ramon** and **Cecille Hidalgo-Ongsiako**; **Imelda** and **Ramon** (†) **Cojuangco**, **Gov. Carmen** and **Edmundo Reyes, Sr.**, **Miriam** and **Rodolfo Montelibano**; mother-in-law **Aurora P. Tambunting**; brothers- and sisters-in-law **Jose** and **Fining Tambunting**, **Ramon P. Tambunting** (†), **Teresita T. Liboro**, **Antonio, Jr.** and **Nancy Tambunting**, **Jesus** and **Margarita Tambunting**, **Milagros Tambunting** and **Gil G. Puyat, Jr.**, and nieces and nephews.

Baby's remains lie in state at the Santuario de San Jose, Greenhills East, Mandaluyong City.

Interment will be at the Manila Memorial Park in Sucat, Parañaque on Thursday, May 23, 2002, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

The Lord is my Shepherd;
I have everything I need.
He lets me rest in fields of green grass
And leads me to quiet pools of fresh water.

Genaro Urmenita Aventajado

Former Councilor of San Juan, M.M.

Has peacefully joined our Creator and his wife, ***Soledad*** *on May 20, 2002 at the age of 81.*

His loving children **Peter** and **Malou**, **Robert** and **Tinette**, **Genaro Jr. "Jun"** and **Camille**, **Joven** and **Bebot**, **Mary Jane** and **Albert**; grandchildren **Lala**, **Mars** and **Det Det**, **Nino** and **Michelle**, **Marco**, and **Xandro**, **Catherine**, **Juana**, **David** and **Stephanie**, **Miko** and **Jak**, **James** and **Vivian** and **Michelle**; and great grandchildren **Gianina**, **Miguel** and **Jeremy Daniel**, request relatives and friends and the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Capilla de San Francisco, Santuario de San Antonio Parish, McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Interment will be on May 23, 2002, Thursday at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat Parañaque.

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

Matthew 10:39

Dr. John T. Talavera M.D.

MCU College of Medicine Batch '89
& of Candon Ilocos Sur & Capas Tarlac

Passed away on May 18th, 2002 in a Vehicular Accident at the age of 36.

His bereaved wife **Dr. Regina Celis Talavera**, daughters **Margaret**, **Catherine** and **Stephanie**, father and mother **Drs. Clemente** and **Basilia Talavera**, brothers, brothers-in-law, sisters and sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews, father-in-law **Rico F. Celis**, mother-in-law **Rosie M. Celis** and other relatives request the pious readers to offer prayers for the repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the family residence at Sto. Cristo St., Barangay Sto. Rosario, Capas, Tarlac.

Burial will be on Saturday, May 25th immediately after the 9:00 AM Mass at the Sto. Rosario, Capas, Tarlac Cemetery.

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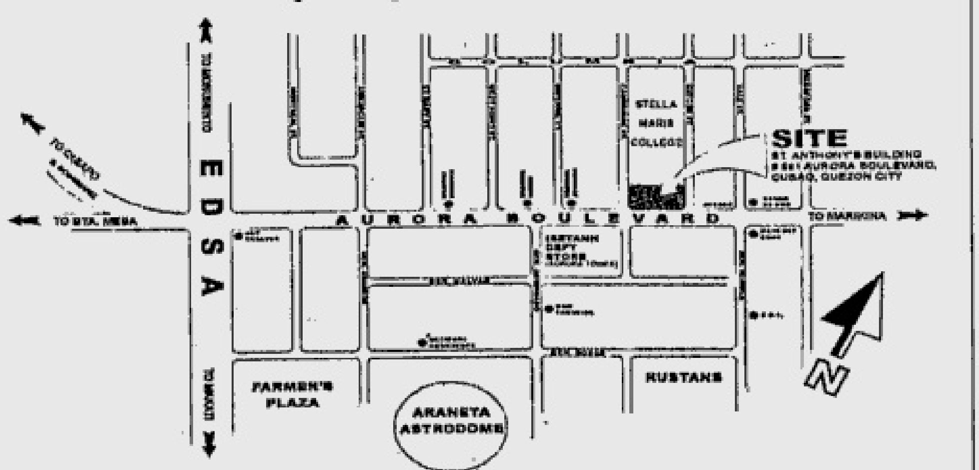

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Assistant Director

DIEGO H. GUTIERREZ

National Bureau of Investigation

Has peacefully joined his Creator on May 19, 2002 at the age of 64.

His loving wife Justice **ANGELINA SANDOVAL-GUTIERREZ;** children **AILEEN & ROBERT MARCON, FRANCIS,** and **JAMES;** Aunt **ALEJANDRA SANDOVAL;** sisters **CELING, REMY,** and **YOYIE;** sisters-in-law **MARIA S. CORONEL** and **MELY P. SANDOVAL;** brothers-in-law **MEL C. GUTIERREZ** and **TONY P. SANDOVAL;** nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the National Shrine of the Sacred Heart, Sacred Heart corner Kamagong Streets, Makati City.

He will be laid to rest at the Loyola Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque, Metro Manila after the 8:00 a.m. Mass on Friday, May 24, 2002 at the National Shrine of the Sacred Heart.

DR. ANGEL SUGUITAN LORENZO

of Laoag, Ilocos Norte & Bacolod City

peacefully joined our Lord on
May 21, 2002 at the age of 89.

His loving wife **FLORITA**; children **George** & **Esmie**, **Rodolfo** & **Mila**, **Erlinda** & **Jim**, **Hedy** & **George**, **Bing** & **Janet**, **Marissa** & **Raul**; together with brother **Reuben**, sister **Lourdes**, grandchildren, relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Rolling Hills Memorial Chapels, Bacolod City.

Interment will be announced later.

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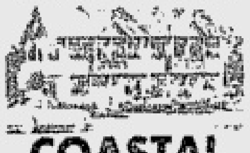

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All transactions covered by this document
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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines

Section I. Invitation for Bids (IFB)

IFB Number . 2002-01-TX
Project Title : **Second Social Expenditures Management Project and Third Elementary Education Project**
Contract Title . **Supply and Delivery of Textbooks and Teacher's Manuals for Public Elementary and High Schools in the Philippines**

1 The Government of the Philippines has applied for a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of Second Social Expenditure Management Project and also received a loan for the Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP) and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of these loans to payments under the contract for which this invitation is issued.

2. The Department of Education (DepEd) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply and delivery of about 28 million copies of textbooks and teacher's manuals for the following levels and subject areas:

Levels	Subject Areas
Elementary Grades 1 to 6 Elementary Grades 4 to 6	English, Math and Filipino Science
High School Years I and II High School Years II to IV High School Year III High School Years III and IV	Filipino Science English Araling Panlipunan

3. Bidding will be conducted through the international competitive bidding procedures specified in the World Bank's Guidelines Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits, January 1995 (revised January and August 1996 and September 1997 and January 1999) and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the guidelines. The bidding and issuance of awards shall be conducted by the DepEd Central Office.

4 Interested eligible bidders may obtain furhter information from the Department of Education (DepEd) and inspect the bidding documents at the address below from 0900 to 1700 hrs starting May 15, 2002. DepEd will grant a margin of preference to textbooks and teacher's manuals manufactured in the Philippines.

5. A complete set of bidding documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders starting May 15, 2002 upon submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of TWO THOUSAND PESOS (P2,000.00) in the form of cashier's check, manager's check or cash.

6. Bids must be delivered to the address below by 1000 hrs on June 27, 2002. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of not less than 2.5% of the bid amount, expressed in any freely convertible currency. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address below at 1000 hrs. on June 27, 2002.

7. Prior to bid opening, a pre-bid conference will be held on June 13, 2002 at 1400 hrs. to 1600 hrs. at the address indicated below.

8. DepEd-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any informality therein and to award the bid items to one or more bidders.

(Sgd.) **Undersecretary Ernesto S. Pangan**
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee
Ground Floor, DepEd Complex Bldg.
Meralco Avenue, Pasig, Philippines
Tel. Nos. (632) 633-9342; (632) 631-9640

(PDI - May 14 & 22, 2002)

ERRATUM

In the ad of the **Department of Transportation and Communications Selected Airport (Trunkline) Development Project**, published in this paper May 18 and 21, 2002 the Loan Agreement Numbers should have been PH-P190 and **PH-P219** and not PI-219 as printed.

Our Apologies

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION
BRANCH 25, MANILA

THE MATTER OF CORRECTION OF.
ENTRY AS TO THE STATUS OF SEX
MARILETTE C. PIMENTEL,
SP. PROC. NO. 02-103051

MARILETTE C. PIMENTEL,
Petitioner.
x------------------------------x

ORDER

In her verified petition, petitioner prays among others that after due notice, publication and hearing, judgment be rendered to correct the entry as to petitioner's sex status as erroneously entered in the Certificate of Live Birth as MALE instead of FEMALE.

Finding the petition to be sufficient in form and in substance, let the instant case be set for hearing on May 30 2002 at 8:30 in the morning, at which date and time, any interested person may appear and show cause, if any, why the petition should not be granted.

Likewise, petitioner is hereby ordered to cause the publication of this order once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general publication.

Send copy of this order to the Solicitor Gerferal, the City Civil Registrar of the City of Manila, petitioner and counsel.

SO ORDERED.

Manila, Philippines. March 18, 2002.

(Sgd.) AIDA RANGEL ROQUE
Judge

(PDI--May 15 22 & 29 2002)

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the loss of tax cert. 12370; 50 shares and 18338. 13 shares under the name of Boanerges E. Salumbedes holder of Bacnotan Cement. Husband of Myrna Salumbedes which was acknowledged before Not. Public Perfecto Sotoridona, Jr. with PTR#0863620 01-24-02 Pasig.
PDI-May 22, 29, June 5

Notice is given that the estate of the late **RAMON DEDEL** was extrajudicially settled by his heirs as per Doc. No. 873 Page No. 176 Book XVIII Series of 2000 before Notary Public Atty. Henry D. Adasa of Manila
(PDI-May 8, 15 & 22, 2002)

"Good Samaritans" offer help to medical student

By Tita Datu Puangco

AN ASSOCIATE in the office could not wait to share with me the good news. I was out of town on a workshop. In response to the letter of the "Helpless Medical Student" last May 8, 27 "Good Samaritans" had called, faxed or e-mailed to say, "We want to help." I am meeting with the medical student to give him the letters. We thought it best that he choose the kind of help he desires.

All these offers to help warmed my heart and kept my faith strong in the Filipino and the innate goodness that is present in the heart of every person. I can't help but agree with Ninoy that "the Filipino is worth dying for."

Inner goodness

We also received beautiful letters from a Westerner and an Asian. There is a wellspring of goodness in all of us. If we find a good cause, we willingly part with our "treasures" to be of service to others. I believe Chiara Lubich when she says that if we take only what we need and put our excess resources in communion at the service of others, then we can solve the problem of poverty. For indeed poverty was created by man and only man can help resolve it.

We can't publish all the letters we received. We have also decided not to put your full names and contact numbers as an act of prudence. But we suggest that we continue our conversation and discussion through our e-group at *anxiouspeopleatwork@yahoogroups.com*. Let us know your thoughts. We thank all those who responded. Personally, I have said a prayer for each of you. May God give you the hundred fold for your kindness and generosity.

Here are some of the letters:

Greetings! Do you have any information that would lead me to this student who has no money but wants to be a doctor? I am very much interested to help him. Please reply ASAP. Thank you very much for your time!

Dr. RCS

My employer read your article entitled "I can't afford to be a doctor" in the Philippine Daily Inquirer last Wednesday, May 8, 2002. She was moved by the student's problem and she is interested in financing his studies in a "Study now, pay later" scheme or other schemes that they can come up with. With regard to this, we would like to request if you could furnish us the name, address, telephone number and the school where he is enrolled.

A. Delos Reyes

I am writing about your column about the medical student who might not be able to pursue his studies due to financial constraints. I am very much willing to be of assistance to this person. Please reply with more specific information on how I could be of help to this person. Thank you and more power to your column.

P.L.

Like you, I was deeply touched with the letter of "Helpless Medical Student." I would appreciate it very much if you could provide me with information on how I can get in touch with him so that I can keep in touch with him personally

Advice
FOR THE
ANXIOUS PERSON
AT WORK

to save you from all the hassles. Thank you for your assistance and more power to you!

B.CM.F.

After reading the letter in Philippine Daily Inquirer issue dated May 8, 2002, I was touched. I like to know how I can help him. How much does he need? How do I know he is telling the truth?

I am working for Intel Corp at the US. Intel has factories in Manila and Cavite and has around 5,000 Philippine employees. I travel frequently to Manila. In fact, I was there in the last one and a half weeks. I was able to read the story when I was in the flight from Manila to Hong Kong. I hate to see such talent in a student who can't complete his study because his parents can't afford it. Please let me know. Thanks.

US Intel Employee

I read today, with a lot of sympathy, the letter of the medical student. I know the difficulties of parents with a child in a medical school, being one myself. Boarding house, daily allowance, money for phone cards since we live in a town 60 km from Manila. My daughter graduated as MD last month (April) and is now on her internship in a hospital in Makati. She constantly reminds me that she will still be my dependent for the next four years because a doctor of medicine will probably earn a decent wage only after going through residency that does not pay well.

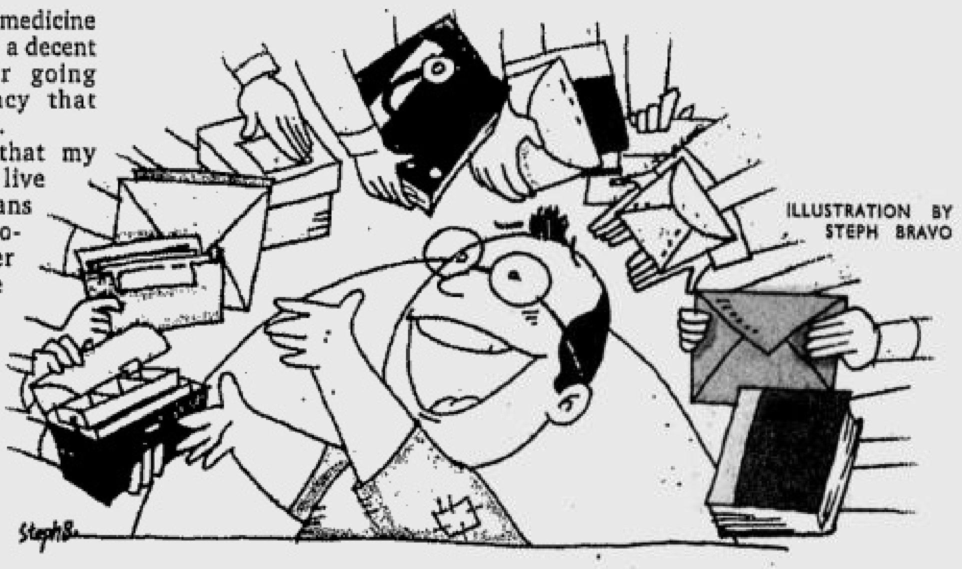

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

I also know that my daughter had to live within the means that we could provide during her four years in the med school. Not much money to go by, compared to her classmates in the BS course who have since graduated and have picked up relatively well-paying jobs.

Back to the medical student, I will still encourage him to sustain his interest, not as much for himself but also for his parents who decided to embrace difficulties so he would be able to stay in the college of medicine. And also for the sake of his future patients. I could sense that the gentleman is embued with dedication to serve. I am not sure if I can help him now but in my heart, I want to extend help, even if occasionally—until he is able to pick up his MD.

RLM

I would like to help him. Could you give me his telephone number or contact number so I could reach him?

JMS

I believe I can somehow help through a "study now, pay later plan" plus a possibility of a part-time job. I maybe contacted through my office.

NGA

If "helpless student" is still looking for a job, I can offer him one in our company. You can give him my number, while I don't guarantee him any numbers, he can just try.

RC

I would like to know in what school the helpless medical student is taking up medicine. If he's enrolled in UP, he can be my full scholar until he finishes his course. It's my way of putting back to good use the money we saved in financing the medical course of my daughter. My daughter has just finished her medical education at UP as she was lucky enough to be accepted in the accelerated seven-year medical course (INTARMED). As you know, the tuition fee in UP is a lot lower than other medical schools and we saved a lot plus the fact that she studied only for seven years instead of the normal nine years required (four years pre-med and five years med proper). I hope I can be of help.

PMV

This is the executive assistant of Health Secretary Manuel M. Dayrit. We came across your column regarding "Helpless Medical Student." Secretary Dayrit is genuinely interested in helping the said medical student. Please let us know how we can possibly extend assistance to the letter-sender.

Dr. E.B.

(Ms Puangco is CEO and president of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send comments, feedback or requests for advice through e-mail to ancillaedc@ pacific.net.ph *or fax to 892-2902.)*

Fun gets you out of job rut

WORKING MOM
An Mercado Alcantara

MY DAUGHTER beat the boredom blues this summer by throwing herself headlong into summer *barkada* fun. At eleven, she's found the new mix of preteen independence and childlike hunger for play quite exhilarating. Her first thoughts in the morning are on her favorite playmates Maan and Maggie. Are they awake? Could they come out to play already? What new game will we play today?

Playfulness

In the past six weeks of summer, their gang of girls and boys have managed to create a routine of games that varies everyday: some days *patintero*, other days hide-and-seek, then biking or swimming in the afternoons. Every night, she tells me how the day turned out; always there is some new twist of fun, some element of playfulness that they inject in their routine.

How are you injecting playfulness and variety in your own work routine? In the May issue of Metro Working Mom (with Jackie Lou Blanco on the cover), we ran an article on what you can do when you're sick of your job but can't quit. As soon as the issue hit the stands, we got letters and feedback echoing the feeling. So many working moms are stuck in a job rut they're bored, restless, but do not have the option to quit.

Symptoms

Human resources manager and industrial psychologist Cynthia Mapalad identified for MWM the symptoms of a person who needs a change in her job situation:

- You're only staying for the money. If you are presented with a generous retirement package, you'd quit in a snap.
- You're always complaining. There are no happy moments in the workplace for you anymore. All your stories about work are grievance litanies.
- You're uninspired. Nothing about your work excites you anymore. If someone offers to take on some of your responsibilities, you'd give them up all too willingly.

"In a perfect world," writes Nicky Cordero, author of the "Job Rut" article, "we could quit in search of a perfect job. But with an economic crisis that shows no sign of letting up soon, we should count ourselves lucky to have a job at all."

Twist of fun

So what to do in a rut? Do as you did in the many long summers of your childhood, add some twist of fun into your work, look for other "games" to play, and seek out opportunities of growth and learning within the organization. Here are some ideas:

- Join a committee. Go beyond your routine by volunteering for ad hoc work within your company. These committees could simply be for planning summer outings and programs or they could be for planning new products. This is a good way to change your routine, expand your network and get your leadership skills noticed.
- Find a mentor. Is there a person in the office you think you can learn a lot from? Reach out to that person. Invite her to lunch, get to know what drives her. Tell her you are eager to learn more. If she is really good, she will welcome the chance to pass on what she knows.
- Volunteer for a project. There are many volunteer organizations that could be in need of someone with your capabilities. When business development officer Sandy Henson volunteered to help in the marketing of an urban poor home-building project, she found herself re-energized by the commitment, passion, and generosity she saw in the other volunteers. Plus, she picked up new connections that could work to her advantage in her current job.

Horizons

These strategies will not only bring the fun back to your work, but will also put you in a position to improve your job description. By expanding your horizons, you'll improve your skills and exercise your leadership potential. When the next promotion comes up, you can add these experiences and skills to your credentials.

I would love to hear how you're reinventing your job. Please write to me at *workingmom@pinoycentral.com.*

(An Mercado-Alcantara is editor-in-chief of the magazine Metro Working Mom published monthly by ABS-CBN Publishing.)

Ways to double your productivity

By Joel Garfinkle

(The other week, we published the first half of this article which listed seven ways to increase productivity at work. Below is the next seven suggestions on how to double your productivity.)

1. ORGANIZE life on a weekly basis.

On Sunday evening, plan your long-term projects for the week. During the week, spend time each day focusing on prioritized projects and you'll be pleasantly surprised with the results. Integrate aspects of the long-term goals into your daily to-do list, and you will accomplish your most important projects.

Action step: Choose a quiet place and plot out your activities in a daily planner for the week ahead.

2. Carve out time for non-urgent activities.

Schedule time during your day when you work on only non-urgent activities (For example, phone, e-mail, paying bills).

Action step: Try to set aside a 30-minute period when you don't have a project deadline filling your mind. The best time may be after a break or meal when you can come to this task fresh.

3. Using an "as-you-go" task system.

As activities and information come into your day, complete them on an "as-you-go" basis, instead of putting them on your to-do list to complete later.

Action step: Your goal should be to "handle it once" and then be done with it. This also increases your sense of accomplishment when you can see all the tasks you have completed.

4. Treat each day as unique.

As you schedule each day, take into consideration the most appropriate activity for that day. Fridays might be your creative, planning days, while Mondays can be for organizing.

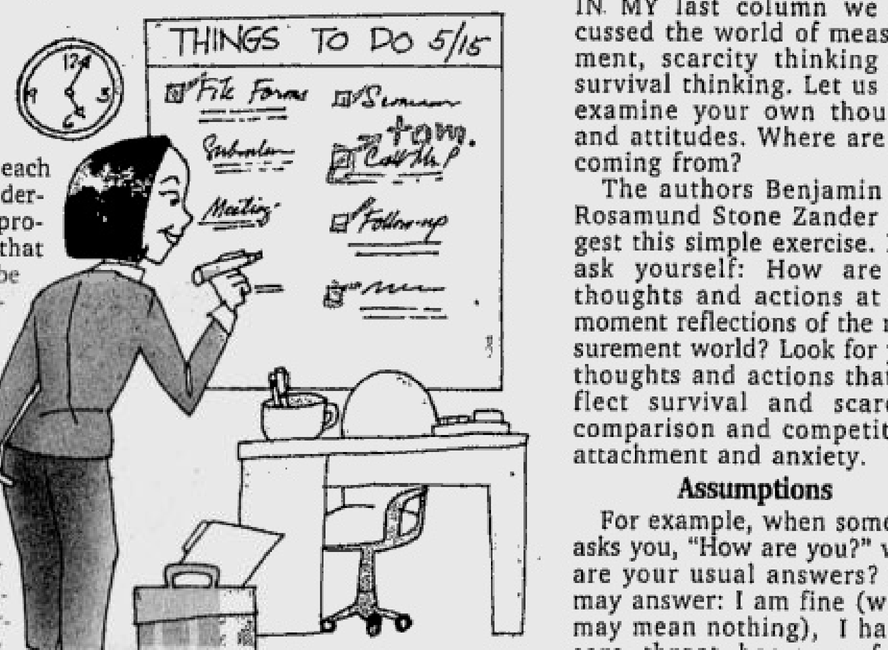

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

Action step: Look at the activities that fill your days and try to group them by what you do. For example, by organizing all of your errands on one day, your creative pursuits on another day, you can increase efficiency on all fronts. List the activities that take up the major part of your day and see if you can group several similar tasks into a specific day or time period.

5. Manage your voice mail and e-mail messages twice daily.

Allow for two discrete sessions per day to check and respond to voice mail and e-mail messages. During these sessions you will be doing only this activity and nothing else. Sort your phone calls and e-mail into low and high priority. During the rest of the day, you will limit use of your phone and e-mail in order to focus only on the project at hand.

Action step: Decide the time frame that works best for you. Possibly first thing in the morning and right after lunch, or just before lunch and just before the end of the workday. Write down what times of the day you think will work best for you here: ____________________.

6. Take breaks.

When your energy level drops or you are becoming too reactive to others, take time to rejuvenate yourself by taking a break.

Action step: A break may involve physically moving away from the work area and getting some fresh air, listening to some relaxing music, or talking with a friend. Find something that helps you recharge. List some activities that rejuvenate you:

7. Have an end-of-day review.

Review your to-do list to examine what you accomplished, what you could have done more efficiently and what you need to get done tomorrow. Action step: Look at your daily planner and actually check off those items you've completed. This will give you a great sense of accomplishment and help you determine those tasks that require more time than originally anticipated.

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Step into a universe of possibility

RECIPES *for* LEARNING
Moje Ramos Aquino

IN MY last column we discussed the world of measurement, scarcity thinking and survival thinking. Let us now examine your own thoughts and attitudes. Where are you coming from?

The authors Benjamin and Rosamund Stone Zander suggest this simple exercise. First ask yourself: How are my thoughts and actions at this moment reflections of the measurement world? Look for your thoughts and actions that reflect survival and scarcity, comparison and competition, attachment and anxiety.

Assumptions

For example, when someone asks you, "How are you?" what are your usual answers? You may answer: I am fine (which may mean nothing), I have a sore throat because of the soaring temperature, or I just got promoted. Or you may say, Horrors, I am now size XL! There is a sale at Bobson Bakery. My son is finally enrolling in graduate school. My car broke down again. I need a maid. FX taxis are now charging Php20.00, no matter where you will get off or they are taking shorter trips e.g. Megamall to Kalentong instead of Megamall to Quiapo. Huh?

Now ask yourself, How are my thoughts and actions, in this new moment, a reflection of the measurement world? Keep asking the question until you finally appreciate how hopeless it is to escape being shaped by the assumptions that underlie life. And then you may begin to laugh.

Rethinking

Next time someone asks, "How are you?" it may appear to you utterly ridiculous to try to assess yourself, or to express life as a struggle and a burden, and before you know it, the word "perfect" may just pop out. And you will be smiling. For you will have stepped into a universe of possibility.

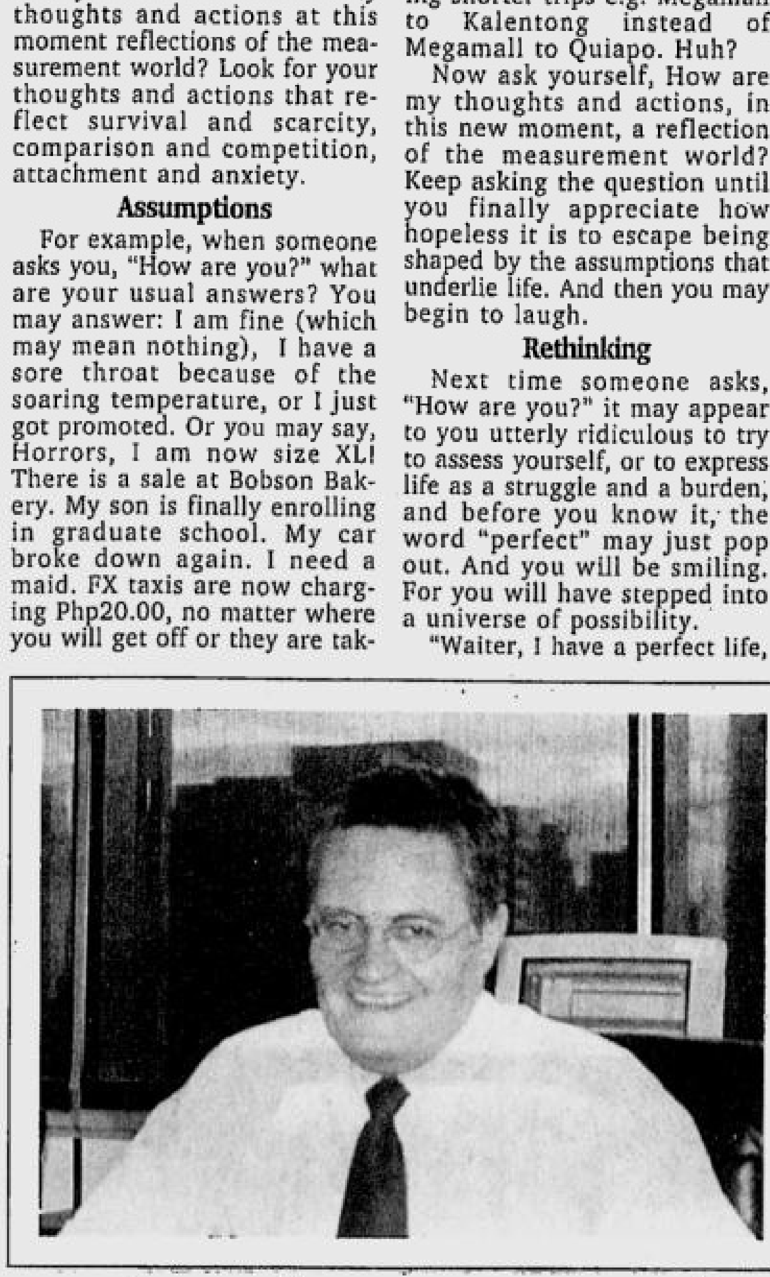
"Waiter, I have a perfect life, but I don't have a knife."

You do not live only to eat three times a day, drink eight glasses of water, wake up early, commute X number of kilometers to your office, punch in your card, work according to your job description (no more, no less), take a 15-minute break in the morning and again in the afternoon, take a one-hour lunch, attend a never-ending meeting, talk to a number of people, commute back home, receive a salary every 15th and end of the month, buy clothes and shoes and everything on sale, get married, have children, take out a loan, build a house or buy a condo unit, buy a car, take a vacation in South Africa, become a member of a sports club or spa, retire at 60 or 65, die.

If you look at your life this way, you have missed the boat to the wonderful world of possibilities. Rethink.

Next week, a monk's story from the book, The Art of Possibility, by Benjamin and Rosamund Stone Zander.

(Send feedback to Moje.Ramos@Aquino.ZZN.com*)*



NESTLE PROMOTION TO EVP

Nestle Philippines, Inc. (NPI) announces the recent promotion of its Finance and Control Division Head, Andre Schumacher, to executive vice president. Schumacher first joined NPI in September 1997 and subsequently was transferred to China. He returned to the country in May 2000 to head the Finance and Control Division.

e-mail: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph.

PEOPLE at WORK

Editor Raul O. Marcelo ◆ Subsection Editor Regina Galang Reyes

BREAKFAST CHAT

Text messaging at work: boon or bane?

By Regina Galang Reyes

THE TECHNOLOGY of text messages has revolutionized the way people at work communicate. Face-to-face meetings, paper memos and letters, and landline telephone calls used to be the main channels of communication in the workplace. But now, the Internet, e-mail and text messages have replaced to a great extent these traditional ways of communication.

For many working people, text messages is the favored medium in conducting business because of its fast transmission, quick access to the intended recipient of the message and inexpensive cost. With the mobility provided by cell phones, managers can quickly send instructions to their subordinates, sales people can easily follow up their proposals with their clients and assistants have no excuse for not updating their bosses on their work.

SALANDANAN

But there seems to be no rules in sending text messages. The possibility of being offended and offending in turn is high. What are the good manners and right conduct in sending text messages?

To solve this etiquette dilemma, the People at Work segment of Studio 23's Breakfast show last Monday featured Ms Ma. Teresa J. Salandanan who talked on the etiquette of sending text messages. Ms Salandanan is a consultant of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting, Inc. She conducts training on business communication. Here's the gist of the interview conducted both on and off the set.

Question: In terms of communication at work, do you think text messaging is a passing fad or here to stay?

Salandanan: Text messaging or short messaging service (SMS) is one of the simplest and most useful means of mobile communication. No one can doubt its popularity with more than 50 billion SMS messages sent in the first quarter of 2001 across the world. There seems to be no slowdown in sight. But paradoxically, while mobile telephony provides us with fantastic freedom, we are at the same time a prisoner of a system where people can get in touch with us all the time. Then, as text messaging gets more prevalent, excitement over its use may clash head on with common courtesy.

Question: Is it appropriate to use text spelling in communicating with clients, subordinates and bosses? Why or why not?

Salandanan: In writing, auditory language is converted into a visual sequence of signs that are clear to everyone. SMS isn't clear or natural. It creates an inner language environment in which most of the vowels are removed. It is not natural to learn to read SMS. It is also informal. Its casualness diminishes the strength and meaning of the message. In this sense, it is not proper to use it for bosses and clients. However, if the culture in the organization is such that it allows this kind of interaction, there should not be any problem. Just make sure that the person you are sending a text message to understands and is able to decode your message accurately.

Question: When someone sends a text message and the number is not in your directory, what's the proper way of asking for the identity of the sender? Sometimes, people get offended if you just text "Who are you?"

Salandanan: Simply text back "May I know who this is please?" It is obvious that once you text back this message, the sender should understand that he/she is not listed in your directory.

Question: When you are sending a text message to someone who you know does not have your number in their directory, what's the proper way of introducing yourself?

Salandanan: Start your message with a greeting like "Hi!" or "Gud Am!" Then, proceed to identify yourself and the company you represent as needed.

Question: Should you always answer your text messages? Why or why not? What's the proper response time?

Salandanan: As a matter of courtesy, text messages should be acknowledged. If it's immediate, make a voice call. If you can't get through and your text message is ignored, there's probably a good reason. There are some times when people are extremely occupied and cannot attend to making a response their priority.

Question: How do you inject respect or courtesy in your text messages, especially when you are sending a message to a client or boss?

Salandanan: Acknowledge receipt of the text message, not discounting the use of "please" and "thank you" and ask what landline you can call him/her at. As soon as this is answered, get to the nearest landline and make the call.

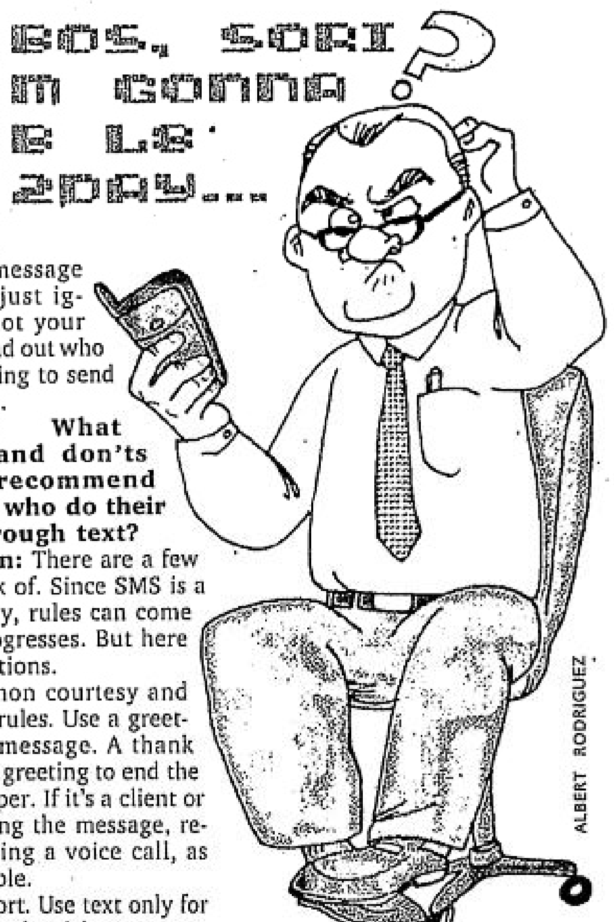
Question: There are times when text messages are sent to you by mistake. How do you deal with this? Suppose you get a threatening text message that's obviously not meant for you?

Salandanan: If you are definite that the message was missent, just ignore it. It is not your obligation to find out who he/she was trying to send the message to.

Question: What other dos and don'ts would you recommend for all those who do their business through text?

Salandanan: There are a few that I can think of. Since SMS is a new technology, rules can come about as it progresses. But here are my suggestions.

- Use common courtesy and basic protocol rules. Use a greeting to start a message. A thank you or another greeting to end the message is proper. If it's a client or the boss sending the message, respond by making a voice call, as much as possible.
- Keep it short. Use text only for queries that need quick responses.
- Be aware of your tone. What may seem to you to be an inoffensive message may be misinterpreted by the recipient and cause some discomfort or irreparable harm.
- Don't try to mimic the kids when they text by being cool and using slang like "K."
- Don't even attempt to send anonymous messages. Remember that SMS can be traced.
- Be conscious of others' schedules. Don't assume that they are always available to text you back.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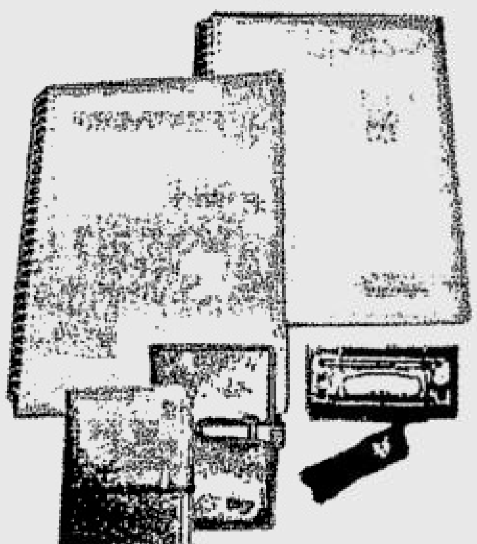
LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso ◎ Chief of Correspondents Pam Pastor

2bU · to be you · to be young · to be young · to be you

HI-HO, HI-HO, IT'S OFF TO SCHOOL WE GO!

Shake off your summer hangover, pick up your bags and dust off your books and notes! Prepare to march back to school as 2bU! gives you the lowdown on school-life, its joys and hazards, its fun and agonies



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What it costs to get a college education

page C8

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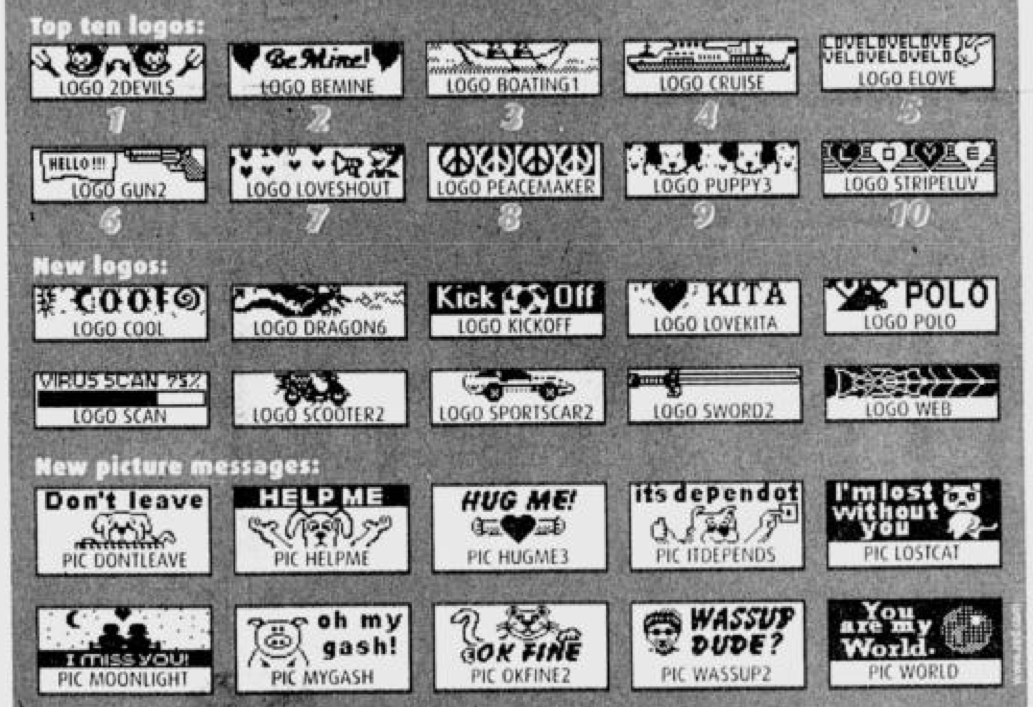

LOGO 2DEVILS
1
Be Mine!
LOGO BEMINE
2
LOGO BOATING1
3
LOGO CRUISE
4
LOVELOVELOVE
LOGO ELOVE
5
HELLO!!!
LOGO GUN2
6
LOGO LOVESHOUT
7
LOGO PEACEMAKER
8
LOGO PUPPY3
9
LOGO STRIPELUV
10
New logos:
COOL
LOGO COOL
LOGO DRAGON6
Kick Off
LOGO KICKOFF
KITA
LOGO LOVEKITA
POLO
LOGO POLO
VIRUS SCAN 75%
LOGO SCAN
LOGO SCOOTER2
LOGO SPORTSCAR2
LOGO SWORD2
LOGO WEB
New picture messages:
Don't leave
PIC DONTLEAVE
HELP ME
PIC HELPME
HUG ME!
PIC HUGME3
its dependot
PIC ITDEPENDS
I'm lost without you
PIC LOSTCAT
I miss you!
PIC MOONLIGHT
oh my gash!
PIC MYGASH
OK FINE
PIC OKFINE2
WASSUP DUDE?
PIC WASSUP2
You are my World.
PIC WORLD

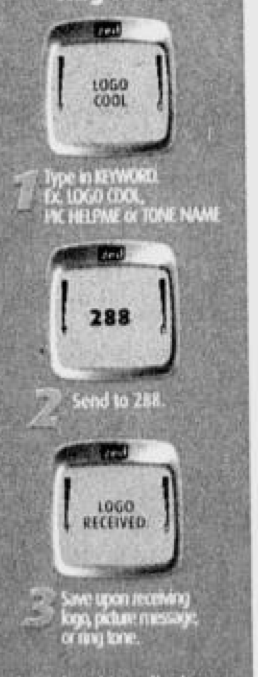
New ring tones:

It's A Hard Knock Life	*From The Movie Annie*	**TONE HARDKNOCK**
Little Girls	*From The Movie Annie*	**TONE LITLGIRLS**
Tomorrow	*From The Movie Annie*	**TONE 2MORROW**
Not Of This Earth	*Robbie Williams*	**TONE NOTOFTHIS**
I'm A Slave 4 You	*Britney Spears*	**TONE SLAVE4U**
Wishful Thinking	*China Crisis*	**TONE WISHFUL**
Runaway	*Del Shannon*	**TONE RUNAWAY**
Say My Name	*Destiny's Child*	**TONE SAYMYNAME**
James Dean	*Goo Goo Dolls*	**TONE JAMESDEAN**
Name	*Goo Goo Dolls*	**TONE NAME**

Top ten ring tones:

1	American Woman	*Lenny Kravitz*	**TONE AMERICANWO**
2	Connecting To Internet	*zed*	**TONE MODEM**
3	Celebrate	*A1*	**TONE CELEBRATE**
4	I've Got Sunshine	*A1*	**TONE IVEGOTSUN**
5	Thank You	*A1*	**TONE THANKUA1**
6	Macho Guwapito	*Rico Puno*	**TONE MACHO**
7	Bahay Kubo		**TONE BAHAYKUBO**
8	Mr. Dj	*Sharon Cuneta*	**TONE MRDJ**
9	Babaero	*Randy Santiago*	**TONE BABAERO**
10	Nanggigigil	*Hagibis*	**TONE NANGGIGIL**

How to get a logo, picture message or ring tone:


LOGO COOL
288
LOGO RECEIVED

1 Type in KEYWORD. Ex. LOGO COOL, PIC HELPME or TONE NAME

2 Send to 288.

3 Save upon receiving logo, picture message, or ring tone.

Available exclusively to SMART Gold, SMART Buddy and Talk n' Text subscribers for selected Nokia cell phones. P15.00 per successful download. For keywords of other zed services, type in KEYS and send to 288.

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A show of hands, please.

Vote now for the Levi's style that fits you best. Be one of the first 100 voters of the day and you can win gifts from Levi's. You can also jazz up your cell phone with the new Levi's logo by typing in **LOGO LEVIS** and send to 288.

How to register so you can vote for your favorite Levi's Jeans Fit:

1 Type in LEVIS REG <NAME>/<ADDRESS /<AGE>/<SEX>

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3 You can start voting for your favorite Levi's Jeans Fit.

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2bU!'s back to back to school survey

By Niño Mark M. Sablan
2bUI Correspodent

NOW that our summer days are numbered as the start of school quickly draws near, we make the most out of the little time we have since summer vacation is usually the only time when time is on our side. While some people out there dip themselves into either chlorinated or sea water and burn themselves into a crisp, I prefer reading, watching and listening to stuff that have been patiently waiting for my free time and undivided attention. Once school's back, life reverts into circus mode stealing time from our side and giving us loads of schoolwork instead.

Although most students are not all smiles whenever June sets in, there are some good things that they actually look forward to, things as valuable as their summer memories.

Here are some students who share their summer treasures together with what's highly anticipated this schoolyear.

Name	What will you miss most about your summer vacation?	What are you looking forward to the most this schoolyear?
Iris Hannah Ledesma, 18	Late-night gimmicks	Overnight stays at classmates' house for projects and other group works
Euanne Sarmiento, 20	My first-ever trip to India and Tokyo	Definitely not the field trips
Ian S., 24	ABS-CBN's daytime soap "Alicia"	Transferees who look like Lena, Maricella and Cynthia
Connie Chua, 23	Wearing sleeveless tops, spaghetti straps and tank tops	The day my school permits us to wear such
Paolo Pilapil, 22	My backpacking trips in Luzon	Seeing Angel Eyes, my crush
Jonathan A., 23	Lots of free time	Longer vacant hours and a better sked
Ruby, 21	Not having to buy senseless requirements for school	Shopping for new shoes and other school stuff
Richard Leyva, 17	Beaches and swimming pools	The rainy season
Misty Maridee, 22	The house, since school means going back to the dorm	More freedom
Shiela, 22	Free time to watch movies and plays	Staging our own play
Eg, 21	Summer jingle of ABS-CBN	Practicum at ABS-CBN, hopefully
Diana D., 19	Partaking in the village Santacruzan	Competing in the school pageant
Ronnel M., 18	My summer fling	All the new pretty students
Jeralie Leonardo, 19	Pigging out on *halo-halo*, *mais con hielo*, etc.	Not the food from the cafeteria
John Marcelino, 12	Doing nothing	Sem break/vacation
Ley S., 20	My long, dyed hair	My ROTC graduation so I can finally grow and dye my hair again
Jhaiden Parin, 20	ROTC *na naman ako*	Face-to-face flirtation
Ging	*Telebabad*	Swapping books with friends
Re, 22	Reading everything I can get my hands on since time is on my side; judo summer classes	I can't wait to kick butt

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She finds it hard to adjust to a long-distance relationship

Carlos Garchitorena & September Mabino

DEAR Sep and Caloy,

I just want to ask if long-distance relationships work out. My boyfriend and I used to be together when we were in college because we were studying in the same university. He stayed with his uncle in Manila. Now that we've finished college, he has to go back to his hometown in Batangas. It's really hard for me to adjust.

Cel

Distance between two people, whether they are lovers, friends or relatives, can make them drift apart, no matter how much they try not to and no matter how high the phone bills will cost. Just look at the couples on "Temptation Island," although that would have to be the worst-case scenario. I am not trying to increase your anxiety by giving you my cynical stance about long-distance relationships. I'm just helping you get ready for the problems that you'll encounter once you and your boyfriend get physically separated.

Don't be too surprised or too hurt if, after a couple of months, the phone calls become less frequent, like from being every night to becoming only every other night. Both of you have other things to attend to aside from your relationship, especially since you have graduated from college already and have to look for jobs or may already have work. Communication has always been helpful to any couple and, of course, you have to keep the lines open between the two of you. However, if things such as work, family and friends suddenly give you less time and less opportunities to call up your boyfriend, try not to feel too guilty about it. Guilt, I believe, is a big (and often ignored) enemy of good relationships. You'd start feeling guilty especially about things that you really have no control over and before you know it, you'd be acting as if you really were guilty and that would make your partner suspicious.

All I'm really saying here is don't expect things to remain the same between the two of you. In fact, don't make any expectations at all, because failing them and having to deal with the failure can be the most painful experience for you. Even as you work on maintaining the relationship, condition yourself already to be strong enough to take things the way that they would come. Don't think that you have to be the most thoughtful long-distance girlfriend in the world and don't force the guy to be the best boyfriend either. If the relationship remains almost as good as when you were still together, then that's great. But if the contrary happened, then at least you didn't set yourself up too high only for a crashing disappointment.

Sep

You will indeed do well by adjusting, as that is the only thing that will remain in your life, as in all lives. The world shifts radically, as does the ground beneath our feet. To some, this may prove to be the very substance of our experience. To others, it is quicksand, where keeping still proves to be the only means of survival.

Your plea, it seems, to my presumption, is mired in reluctance. Ask not, point-blank, whether long-distance relationships work or not. Ask rather how they can. You phrase your question as if asking your weatherman whether rain will fall or not, and what percent chance there would be. As if the rules on love were written well and with finality...

Long-distance relationships do often prove to be a far-off dream for many, the flame long burnt out by the time the second wind could scoop it up into a blaze. I would advise for you to save your breath if the case were New York, or Peru.

But Batangas? Couldn't either of you do better than that? Batangas is a two-hour bus ride, give or take 30 minutes! Accompanied by a so-so book, or fresh-hot *buko* pie picked up in Tagaytay, you should be well occupied (no pun intended) by the time you get off the jeep or the tricycle in the final stage to your boyfriend's doorstep. And certainly, your boy could do well taking time out counting migratory birds for a day or two, and maybe visit you once or twice a month. That would be "adjusting" in genuine fashion.

What happened to true, romantic love? Did it die along with the last of the Mohicans? Are courageous, overstated promises the exclusive demesne of the duty-crazed postal service?

Besides, what holds you here in this poor excuse for a progressive metropolis? Why you would hold on to the dirtied, congested and vile city life, passing up the chance of breathing fresh air and rolling hills is beyond me. Maybe you just want to hear a "No, Cel. Long-distance relationships do not work out. Unless you're both weightlifters." Nay, I will not be party to mouthing the thoughts of the hopeless.

On the other hand, "out of sight, out of mind" to Stevie Wonder's protestations. Yet, "absence makes the heart grow fonder," the operative word being "absence," not "banishment." Further, the fighting words of Mr. Ali are clear: "Love cannot sustain itself."

Love, in the first place, is something we each must define. And though it suffers our loose connotations, it is hard to lie in bed, when we know what love awaits behind unopened doors.

Caloy

E-mail the author at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

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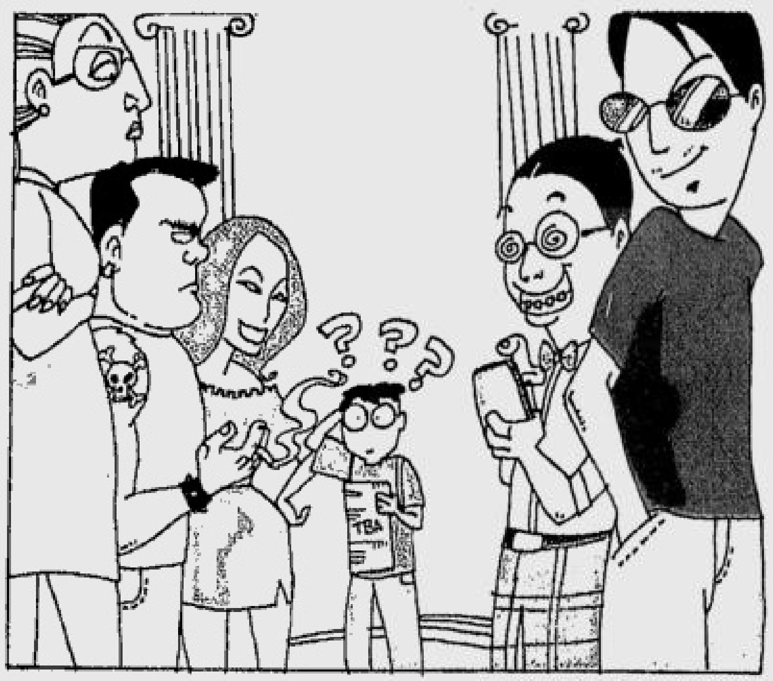

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Freshen up, *freshies!*

By Jason Doplito
2bU! Correspondent

As a freshman, your first task is to survive college. Here are some tips

SO you feel excited huh? For four years you couldn't wait to get out of that box you call "high school", where skirts had to be halfway down your legs and uniforms had to be immaculately white. You couldn't wait to get rid of your nerdy schoolmates who couldn't even ride a jeepney or say the "F" word. Where weekly masses were heard. Where the closest thing to a hot dude or babe was a transsexual wannabe, and teachers went about enslaving you in your pursuit of a decent grade. Where there were rules.

Finally, this coming school year, in your new role as a college freshman, you are free. (Play canned evil laugh.)

Or so you think. Of course, you'll never get rid of your ultrageek classmates, whose life force depends on the latest techie gadget they can acquire. You'll always have professors who don't quite teach, and rules that rival your high school's. Some of you may even have to continue wearing uniforms. It's sad, sure, but hey, college isn't exactly a breeze. It's far from that, trust me. But for others who are going to a school far more liberal and find a lot more responsibility (and should we say fun?) in their hands, you may want to consider certain things.

First things first

Wearing leather jeans with your furry and fluffy top may look okay in a club, but not exactly when you're in school. Come your first day, I'm sure you'll be able to count the number of students who look like they *really* tried hard to dress up. There's really no reason to even try; just come as you are. Brains are what counts most especially when you begin to discover that some of your classmates graduated as valedictorians.

Also, try not to be as sensitive as you were about certain things. In some universities, for example, you'll know of some students who can't buy lunch because they can't afford it. Or others have to wear the same thing twice, even more, in a week because they just don't have enough clothes. So never throw any tantrums if no one can accompany you for a nice dinner at California Pizza Kitchen. The general rule, as it is in life, is to learn to be humble.

Sure, a first day in school will be nerve-wracking, especially if you care enough to make friends. There's always that tendency for you to clam up and just sit at the far corner of the classroom. You have to consider that you're going to have to deal with them for a long time, particularly if you're a block section. It's possible that some of these guys will be your friends for life. So face your fear head on and open up. During my first year in college, there was this guy who just made everyone laugh. He was pretty noisy, but it was okay because that made the atmosphere in our classroom fun. He turned out to be semi-famous in the campus. Another good way to make friends is to just stop trying to impress. Fine, you know the laws of quantum physics, you graduated with top honors, your dad heads some multinational company. Don't flaunt it.

Then again, your knowledge shouldn't stop you from making friends with upper classmen. They can offer tips on how a certain professor teaches, his likes and dislikes, since teachers have different methods of giving grades. They can even share their previous exams and evaluation tests for you to use as review materials. You can easily get to know people from higher batches by joining an organization, especially one that is related to your chosen course.

Bag it up

If you're the type of student who got past high school even without bringing your own pens, paper or notebook, you may want to change all that now that you're in college. If you don't belong to a block section, it can be quite embarrassing to haggle around for school materials. Bags come in handy, not just for the sole purpose of carrying things, but also for the tons of photocopies you're most likely going to lug around. It'll also be nice if you'll start carrying the necessary set of toiletries, like soap, toothbrush and hair gel (that goes for guys, too) for hygienic purposes. If you have lockers available in your college, that wouldn't be a problem.

Some universities publish their yearly survival guides, and they can be quite essential especially if you're entering a big campus like the University of the Philippines. They help in giving you the right directions to the different colleges, as well as orient you on some of the known pranks that students play on freshies. For example, if your classroom is listed as TBA, never fall for that old joke that it stands for "Teodoro Benigno Aquino" hall; instead, it simply means "To be announced." Also, fishballs play an important aspect in a UP student's life, so don't be blasphemous in front those ubiquitous stands, lest you want your derriere kicked.

Speaking of getting kicked, don't rush yourself into a relationship. The sight of boys and girls walking around your campus freely may be something to behold for someone who used to be in an exclusive school like you. Control yourself. Pigs and crocs don't only exist in the government, they can also be found in schools. Your brains will be tired enough thinking about projects and research papers, keep your heart as stress-free as possible. At least, until your sophomore year.

So I guess there are some reasons to make you feel excited. After all, you're going to be a lot freer than before. But you have to remember that you have to know the rules even before you go about breaking them.

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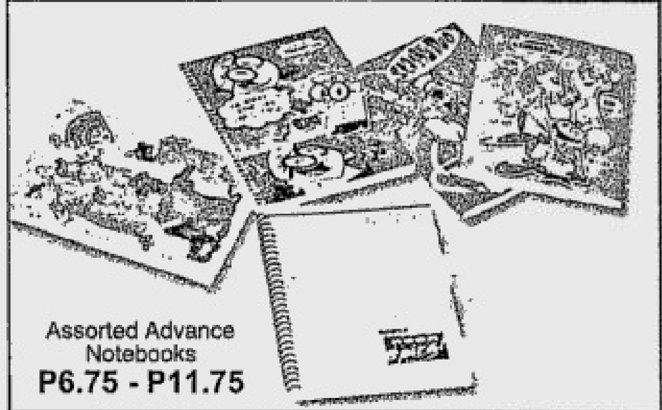
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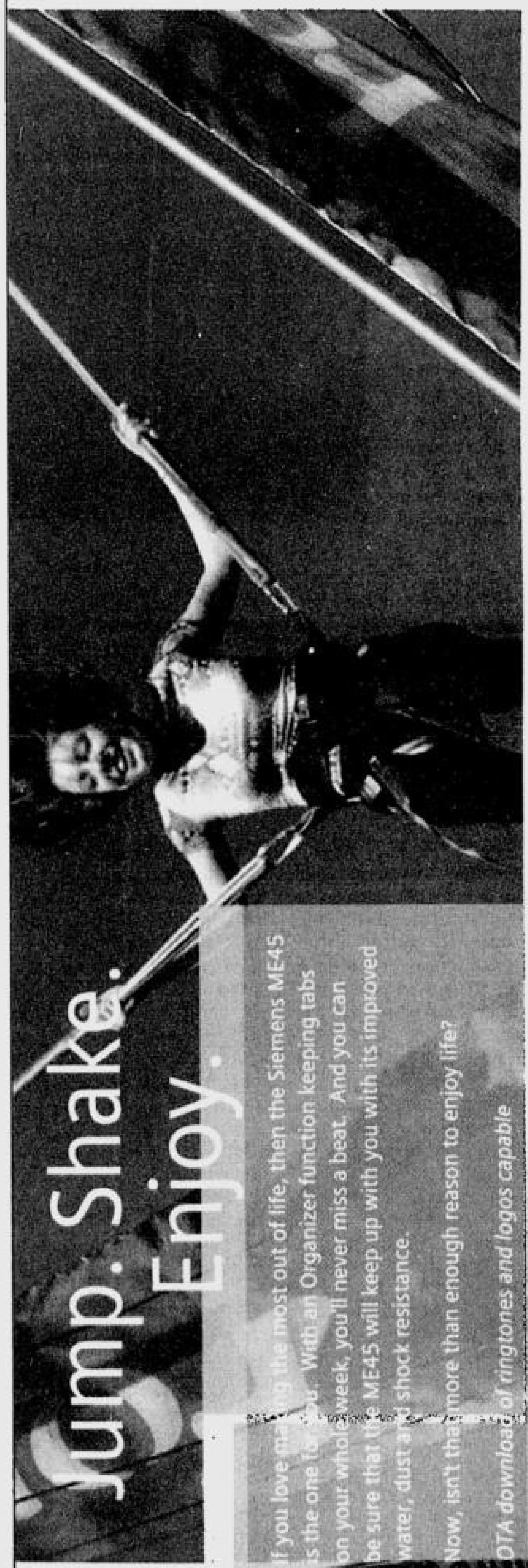
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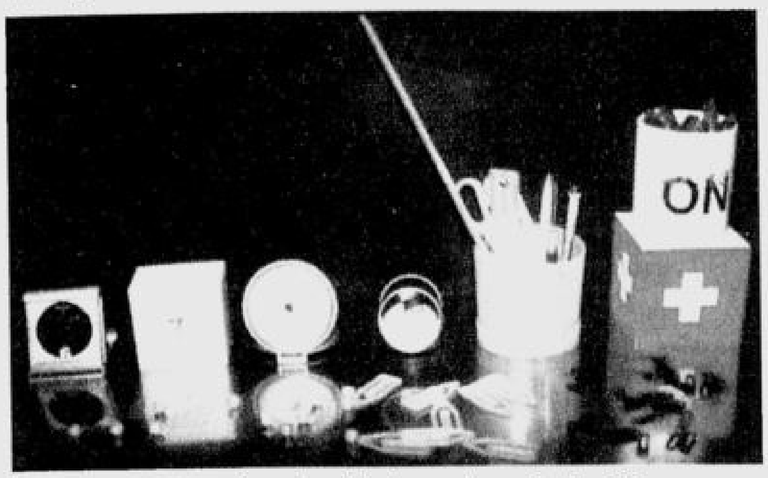
Cool student's must-have things

By Saleema Devi Refran
2bU! Correspondent
Photos by Dominic Refran

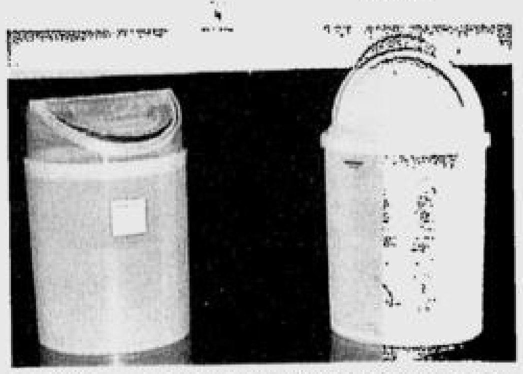
GOODBYE, bikini! Goodbye, surfboard! Goodbye, sunny people of summer! School starts in a few weeks so it's hello, strict professors! Hello, new classmates! Worst of all, hello homework and projects! But there's no need to wear a long face. School won't be so bad if you make sure you have these cool and useful stuff.

2bU! went out and searched for the perfect items to help make the long days of school bearable.

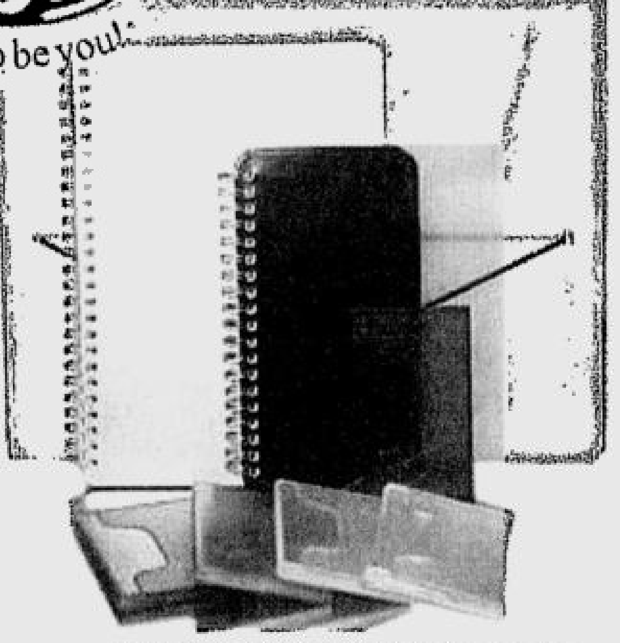
RELEASE the little kid in you with these cool and cute character stuff. Mickey and Minnie Mouse file case for P149.75. Winnie the Pooh binder for notes and handouts just P119.75. Character metal pencil case for P79.75. All from National Bookstore

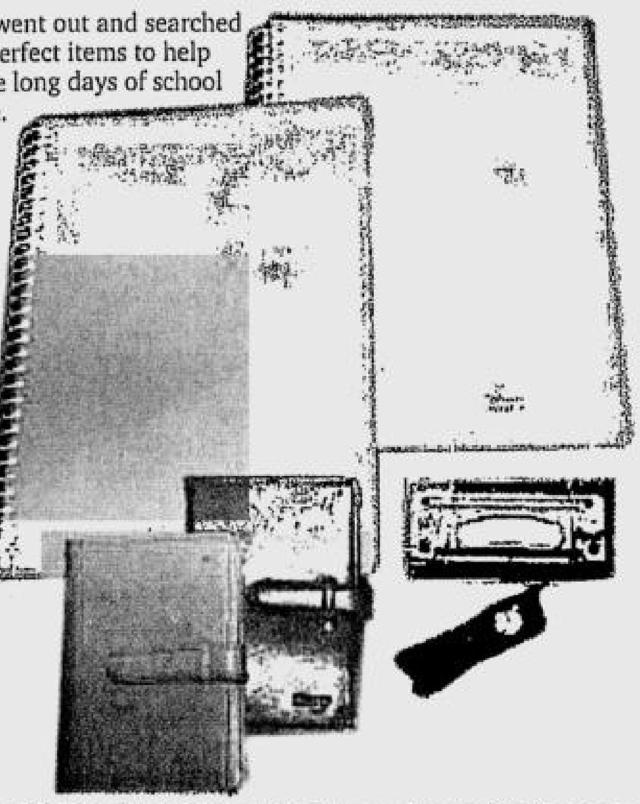

WAKE up bright and early with these alarm clocks. Silver foldable alarm clock, P199. White square alarm clock, P179. Silver compact clock, P159. Sharpen those pencils with this metal sharpener, P49. Rule your way to success with these plastic rulers available in two sizes, big for P12 and small for P10. Make perfect cuts with these white scissors for only P50. Get pens for only P24 and keep them in this plastic penholder, P95, or the ceramic penholder for just P65. Green mini flashlight, P55 (also available in yellow). Write your reminders in this White Cross notepad, P49. Wooden push pins, P29. Plastic paper clips in black and white, P12. All from Anonymous

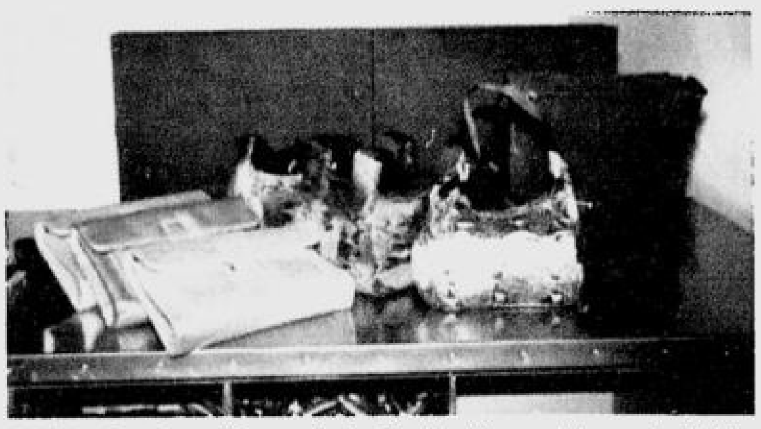
STAND out and be different with these neat ID holders. With cool designs like Shameless, You Can't Help but Wonder, Bob Marley, Nerd No More, Bombshell, Face Is Personal History and Little Miss Bitch. All at P59 each. From Anonymous

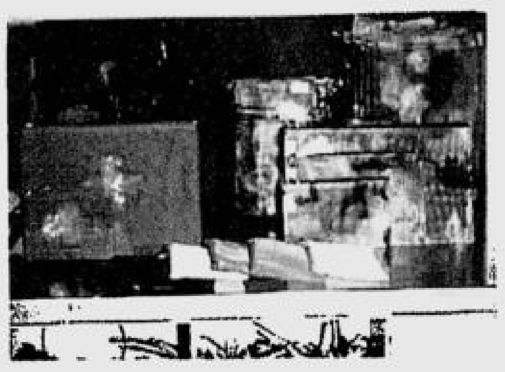

CLEAN up your mess with the help of these thrash cans. Transparent thrash can, P80. Frosted thrash can, P109. All from Anonymous

THANKS TO ANONYMOUS SM NORTH EDSA, JOEL ACEBEDO AND MACKY. ANONYMOUS ITEMS STYLING BY MARK ANTHONY RAMOS


STUFF everything in this white envelope organizer, P50. Go metallic with these metal notebooks—black, P85; and silver, P169. Store your calling cards in these hip plastic holders priced at P29 each. All from Anonymous


CAN'T AFFORD A PALM PILOT? Get organized with these cool mini organizers. Available in blue, green, red, purple and yellow for just P182. Get these big pastel notebooks for just P149.75. Blue Winnie the Pooh stapler is only P79.75 (comes with own staple wire). Punch your handouts for your binder with this pink Winnie the Pooh puncher, P99. All from National Bookstore


GO à la Carrie on "Sex and the City" with pouch bags. Available in black, gold, pink and silver for only P599. Go wild with cobra skin bags in white, green, orange and pink for P499 or go for the classic brown body bag for P598. All from Anonymous


STORE all your little stuff in these pouches. Red sequined cross pouches at P289 (big) and P249 (small). Camouflage pouches at P99 (small), P129 (medium) and P159 (large). Small pouches in black, silver, blue, pink and gold for just P99 each. All from Anonymous

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Big sis writes her brother a UP survival manual

DEAR Dominic,

So, you're done with high school and you've been lucky enough to get into the University of the Philippines. You are excited about meeting new friends and not having to come to class in white polo and black pants anymore, but you are a bit apprehensive, too.

Tips on how to get around are not enough to prepare you for UP. It helps to know more than just the campus map and which teachers to avoid (although they're also indispensable info).

First, keep in mind that almost everybody who gets into UP graduated with honors, so your "Second Honorable Mention" does not mean much. My English teacher said it best: "You get into UP and you all think you're school-smart, but you stay for a while and you'll find out that you're mostly school-shit." You probably know this already but let me remind so you won't be so surprised if your grades are much lower than those you got in high school. You can console yourself with the thought that you might get a higher grade elsewhere, but a 3 is still a 3.

I have to warn you, though, that there are teachers who will give you a 5 even if you pass all their exams. The opposite can also happen, but it's more often the other way around. But most of the teachers know what they are doing, and you should at least be grateful for that. There will also be teachers who cannot finish a grammatically correct sentence, but it's not like in high school when even English teachers do not know where to place a comma. Others will teach you more than what is in the course outline; they will take the time to talk about politics and poverty even when they're supposed to be teaching Calculus. Well, you will just have to deal with that.

Time management

It's not really that hard to get passing grades. If you can get by with just two hours of rest per day, then college life will be a breeze. Just kidding. Seriously now, some days' sleep will have to wait, but if you know how to manage your time, you'll be okay. You don't have to live like a monk. You can watch movies with friends before you do your papers sometimes, but you have to know that you cannot do that if the paper is due the next day and you haven't even started.

As for friends, your *barkada* in high school is as close to what is ideal as you can get. It is a blessing if one of them ends up at UP with you, more so if you are both in the same dormitory. But unless you are enrolled in the same course, you'll likely form a new clique with your blockmates even if you do not share another class throughout the rest of your stay in college.

A block would have about 40 people and you probably do not have much of a choice but to join whoever says "hi" to you first. Eventually you will form a new *barkada.*

And did I mention that the hardest thing is to remain the kind of person you are? You may be overwhelmed by the freedom UP gives its students and eagerly try new things. Since UP has a liberal atmosphere, you will be confronted with so many different philosophies and beliefs. You'll meet militants, atheists, feminists, Christians and there may come a time when you will not be so sure of yourself anymore. But believe it or not, this is actually good, for it will make you more critical of your old beliefs and the new ideas you hear. You will face so many questions about life, love, sex, God and everything else, and you will be lucky if you get answers to half of them before you graduate. By then you'll also know that we do not always find the answers, and that is perfectly fine.

Greater tolerance

But I am hoping that UP will also teach you to lose your bias against people who are different or who do not share your beliefs. This early, you will start to learn to overcome the condescending attitude you have toward public school graduates (if you are from a private institution), homosexuals, non-Catholics, *promdis* and people who come from either the lower or upper classes.

UP thrives because of the diversity of its people and, here, nonconformity is a way of life. This works to your advantage. You can be as weird and as radical as you want to be.

If you vowed "I won't join any frat" before you entered the university, I hope you'll be firm enough to stand by that statement. It will be good to stay out of trouble although not all fraternities join rumbles and throw pillboxes at other frat *tambayans*, you know. Some hold outreach programs for street children. But I have seen frat men missing classes for several days to elude policemen and I do not want that happening to you. Of course, it is also true that joining a frat can open doors for you. You can land a job with insufficient credentials because the boss happens to be a "brother," even if he doesn't know you personally. But some doors may also be closed to you because of frat connections. However, if you do decide you want to join one of those brotherhoods, choose a frat that is not a war freak.

I almost forgot to say something about your love life, probably because I do not have one right now. I do not see anything wrong if you get into a relationship, but please remember that you should not be dating the night before an exam.

Lastly, just remember that college is not really that different from high school. Yes, there are changes, but it's not like you've moved to Mars (although it may feel that way at first). Your graduation guest speaker might have said that you will be facing the real world from now on. But what people call the real world is always a level ahead. College graduates are told that the workplace is the real world.

The way I see it, you have already seen the real world. After all, discrimination of all kinds were also part of your high school life, and you might have seen favoritism firsthand when the scout master gave the Boy Scout of the Year award to someone who was every bit as political as Ate Glo, who is suddenly consumed with a desire to plant rice with her *kababayans.*

Let me say again that this will not prepare you completely for UP, but I'll be happy if you find at least half of what I've written here helpful.

Love,
Ate Donna

The author is an incoming junior journalism student at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, QC

Shady school characters to avoid

By Niño Mark M. Sablan
2bU! Correspondent

THE UNIVERSE known as college is filled with colorful, crazy characters. The student is not spared of villains. Juniors and seniors probably know them by heart and may even be friends with them. But for the unsuspecting freshmen, here's a list of people they could live without plus some pointers on how to deal with them.

The unreasonable security guard, the horny teacher and the cranky nuns—they will make your college life hell

Strict security guards—Acting as if they own the school, some guards have the talent of spewing verbal vomit. What's annoying is their erratic behavior, their usual tendency to pick on students at random. Weekly offenders seem to always get through unscathed while first-time, non-serious offenders usually get the whistle. Arguing with witless guards is grueling and pointless.

Horny profs—Spotting one is easy especially if you're the watermelon of his eyes. It's dealing with his advances that is difficult. Victims can't be blamed for teachers are situated in high positions and they sure can scare the students and win superiors over to their side. However, this should not stop any student from going to the authorities when the teacher gets out of bounds.

Money-hungry teachers—Sure, life is hard nowadays and everyone welcomes fast extra cash, but for the noblest of professionals to actually grab every money-making opportunity is simply a scam. Whether it's for a parent's hospital bill or a prepaid cellcard, it's still detestable as long as a pupil's grade is involved. If your teacher sells *turon* and announces a plus-5 for every purchase, better head to the canteen and to the principal's office.

Old cranky nuns—According to a friend who spent her college in a school run by nuns, some sisters are no different from bitter old maids. Self-righteous and crabby, they seem to be bitter about their vocation and manifest their repression through grouchiness. Recipients of their wrath should bear no grudge against them and instead just kneel and pray for them.

Snotty cashiers and registrars—Every enrolment they lazily sit on their heavy behinds, talk in somber voices and then snap at you. Since their oh-so-lovable attitude is probably innate, a sarcastic thank you is enough. Then again, a head-on confrontation with them is even better.

Singitero—They have a knack for butting their buttocks in a long line, so they should have their posterior kicked by everyone in the line. Most of the time, as in 99.99 percent, it's done on purpose. It's not as if they got lost and ended up in front of the line. They are truly insensitive and thick-skinned. A confrontation loud enough for everybody to hear is highly suggested when someone's rear suddenly looms up before you.

PEPPER SPRAY
ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Exhibitionists—The thing is that these sickos are mentally ill and we have to understand their behavior. Rampant in exclusive schools, exhibitionists want to be watched so ignoring them is ultimately the way to go. Some say they're harmless and that they just want to be watched, but if some stranger suddenly jacks off in front of me I'd scram.

Pickpockets—Everybody knows we all should beware of suspicious-looking characters, but the problem nowadays is that it's hard to distinguish one. All we could do is be extra wary and not flaunt our cell phones, jewelry and other valuables.

Shady vendors—Most vendors outside the school are trustworthy, especially the ones who have been there for quite some time. Others, however, are just after the money and couldn't care less about the people who buy their products. These are the ones we should avoid lest we want to get food-poisoned.

Users and backstabbers—More evil than bullies, these beings should be avoided the moment you sense something questionable in their intentions. Giving them a dose of their own medicine by using or backstabbing them. But then again, you don't want to be like them, right? So just stay away from these negative souls.

E-mail the author at katotino@yahoo.com

Going higher in the higher education ladder

Go to grad school; it will keep you alert and young

By Michelle C. Pino
2bU! Correspondent

LOOKING for work together with other fresh, inexperienced graduates is a most familiar activity after college. But a profession and a career are just a fraction of the things we must do for our future. Now that school is back, have you ever given a thought to hitting the classrooms again? Why not try to earn a masteral degree for the next two years?

Higher education is not only for pre-med or pre-law students. Sure, you deserve a break from those exams and paperwork. You are over and done with college. But before you start crabbing of how dreary we are in 2bU!, we'll let you in on some insights on how cool it is to stay in touch with school.

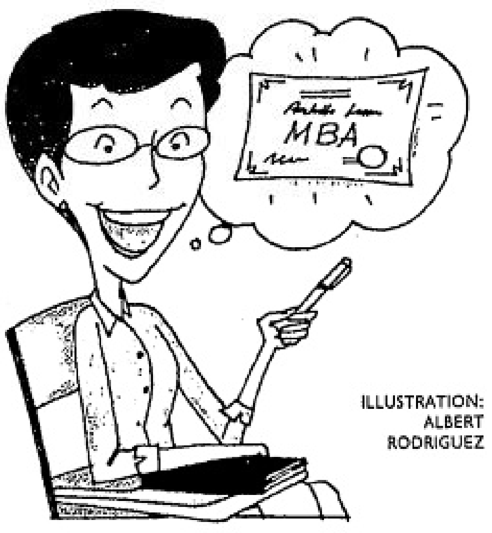


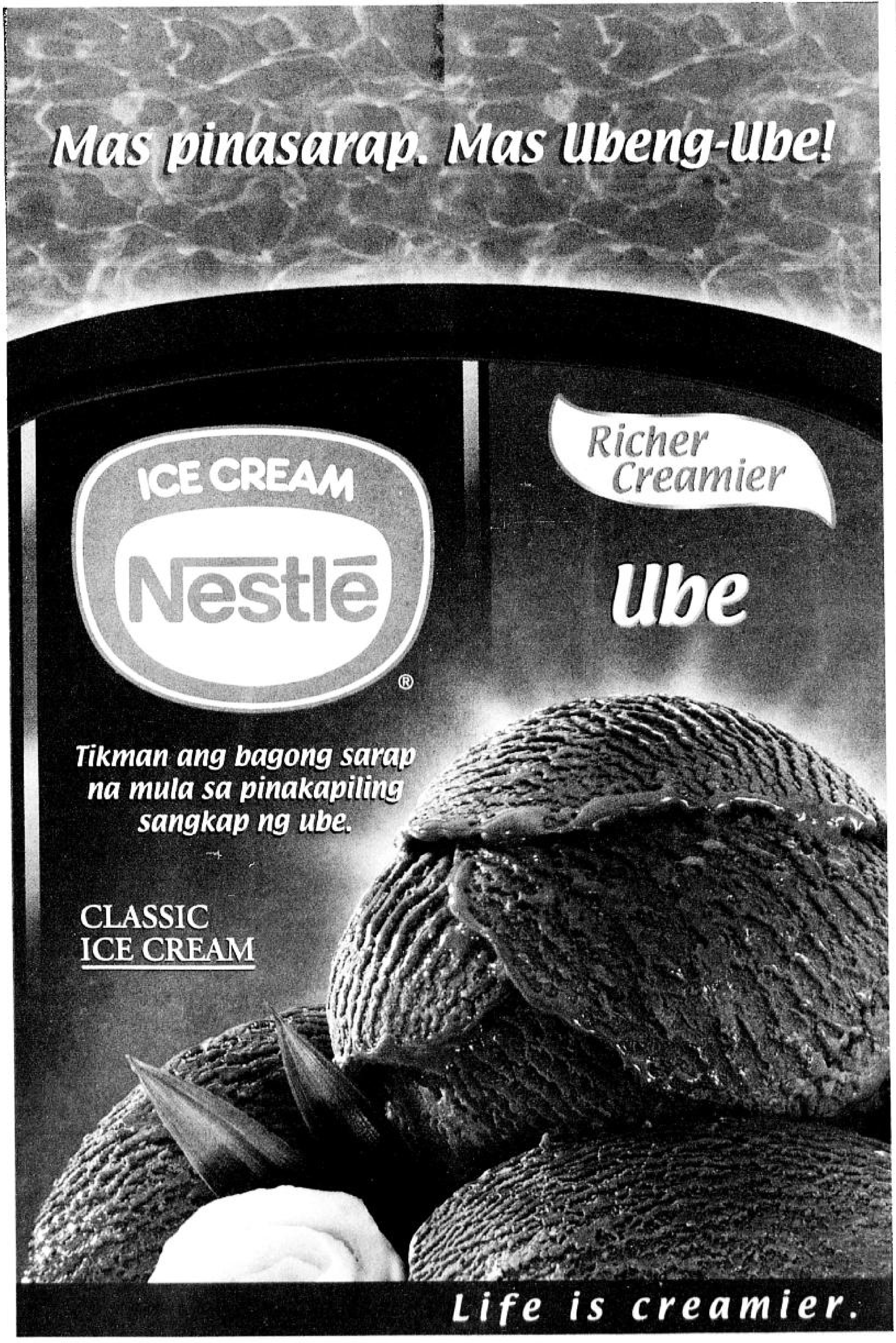
ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Lazy daze-y. Contrary to popular belief, school is tougher than a paying job. Unlike school, in a job your mind is at work for just eight hours a day (if you're lucky) and only fives time a week. Though there are some professions that require much of your time, generally most jobs provide you droning schedules that let you take it easy. At first this sounds good since work is relaxing for you. But when the lazy bug bites you hard, you lose the adrenaline and drag yourself to work every day. Going back to school and earning that masteral degree will prevent this from happening. You'll be up on your toes all the time. You'll be as busy as the busiest busy bee. Work will occupy your daytime and schoolwork will keep you full of beans at night and even during weekends. It will work out with just the right time management. It'll be good to keep in mind that only a busy worker can get many jobs done.

Up the ladder. Who doesn't want to be promoted? Higher pay is not the sole motivation for working your way to the top. Money is just a side issue. The opportunity to grow and develop drives the workforce to eye the next best thing. Each and everyone of us has our own ogre inside that can't simply get enough and would like to reach its fullest potential. What do you do? Show them that you have learned something new. A masteral diploma attached to your request for promotion can grab hold of your superior's attention. You prove that you're not just a hardworking, alert and innovative worker, but also a dynamic and developing one.

Staying young. Nobody should fear of getting old, but it sure pays to keep yourself youthful and fresh. Going to school twice or thrice a week to learn keeps you alive and young. Your young environment will update you on the trends of the changing times. Staying in touch with the youthful world can relieve you of the stressful corporate pressures. Interacting with young people not only enriches you but also fosters an open mind that will prevent early wrinkles from showing up. The energy of the young can be contagious. Let it rub onto you.

And the learning never stops. The hunger for knowledge can be addicting. You will barely notice that right after earning your masteral degree, you'll be seeking entry to the Ph.D. program. Get started now. Taking up a masteral degree will make you realize that you're way better than what you thought you were. You'll find yourself doing things you've never thought that you are capable of doing. You will become a certified intellectual. Nobody has said that juggling a career and schoolwork is uncomplicated. Anyway, nothing is trouble-free anymore these days. It's a cliché, but it is good to keep in mind that if others can make it, then so can you. Wisdom should come with age. Better earn it in a legitimate academe.


Mas pinasarap. Mas Ubeng-Ube!
ICE CREAM
Nestlé
Richer Creamier
Ube
Tikman ang bagong sarap na mula sa pinakapiling sangkap ng ube.
CLASSIC ICE CREAM
Life is creamier.

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GPRS
For faster data access
Improved graphical user interface and enhanced security standard
Handsfree Speakerphone
High quality speakerphone in face-up position
Includes voice dialing and memo
760 Characters for SMS
Additional 25 Messages for the Inbox
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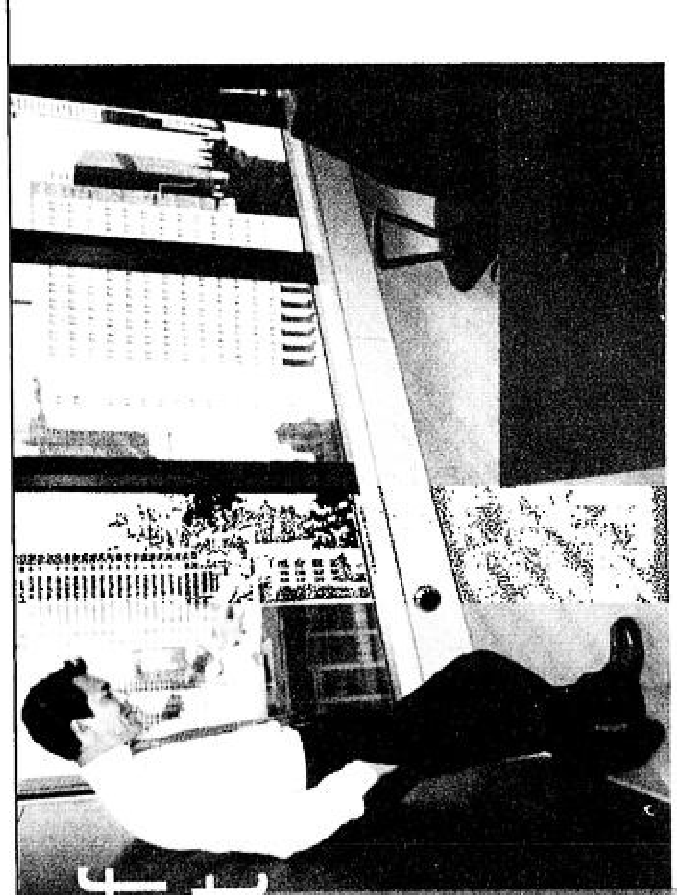
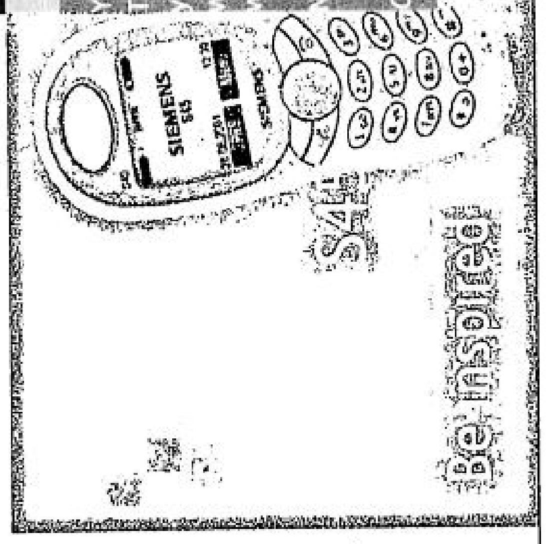
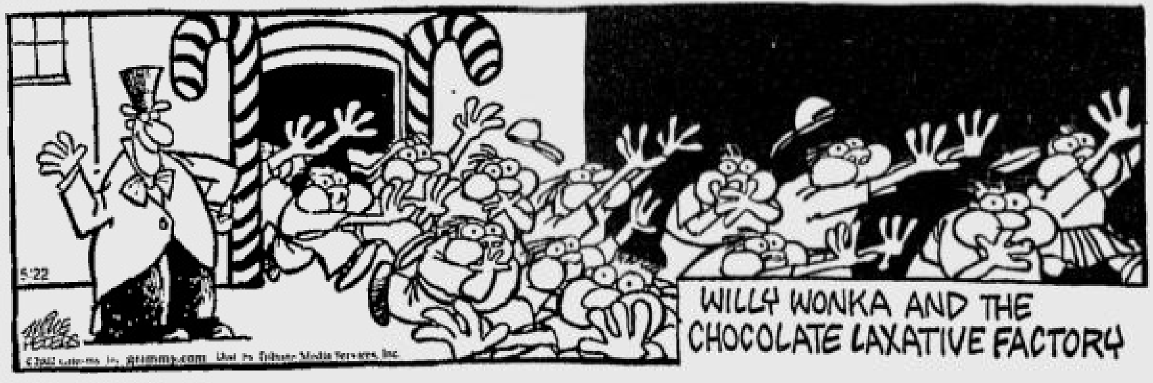




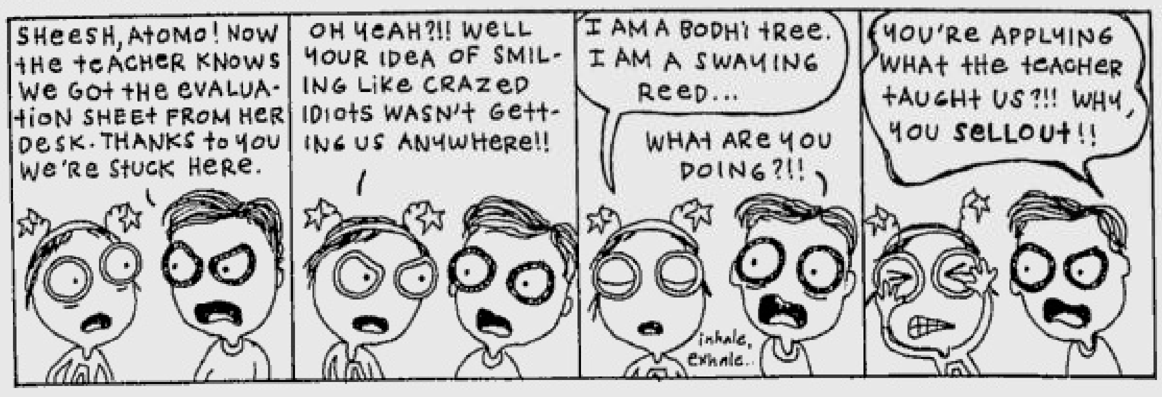
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


5-22
WILLY WONKA AND THE CHOCOLATE LAXATIVE FACTORY
©2002 Grimmy, Inc. grimmy.com Dist. by Tribune Media Services, Inc.

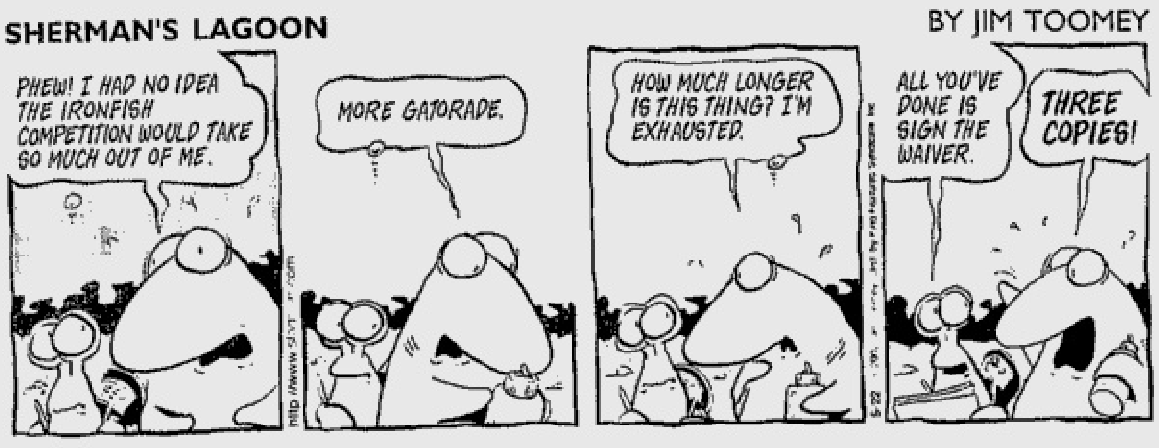
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


SHEESH, ATOMO! NOW THE TEACHER KNOWS WE GOT THE EVALUATION SHEET FROM HER DESK. THANKS TO YOU WE'RE STUCK HERE.
OH YEAH?!! WELL YOUR IDEA OF SMILING LIKE CRAZED IDIOTS WASN'T GETTING US ANYWHERE!!
I AM A BODHI TREE. I AM A SWAYING REED...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!!
inhale, exhale..
YOU'RE APPLYING WHAT THE TEACHER TAUGHT US?!! WHY, YOU SELLOUT!!

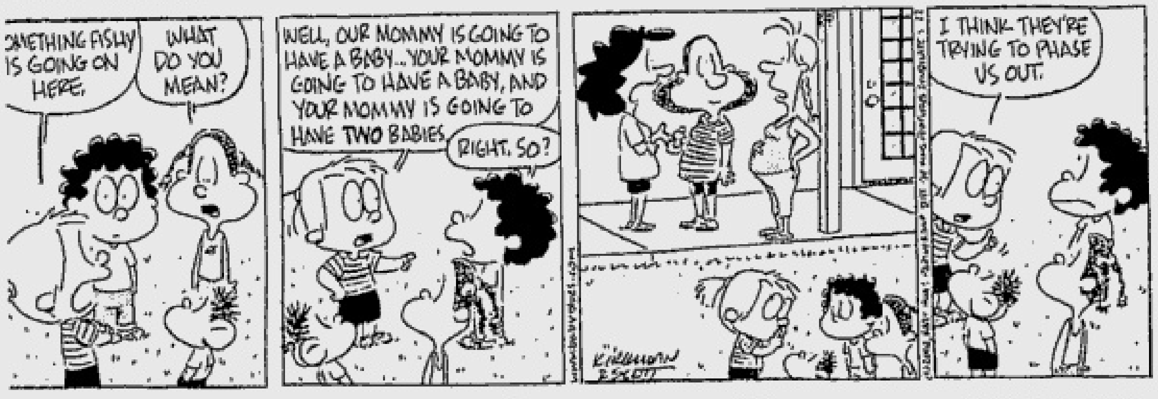
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


PHEW! I HAD NO IDEA THE IRONFISH COMPETITION WOULD TAKE SO MUCH OUT OF ME.
MORE GATORADE.
HOW MUCH LONGER IS THIS THING? I'M EXHAUSTED.
ALL YOU'VE DONE IS SIGN THE WAIVER.
THREE COPIES!

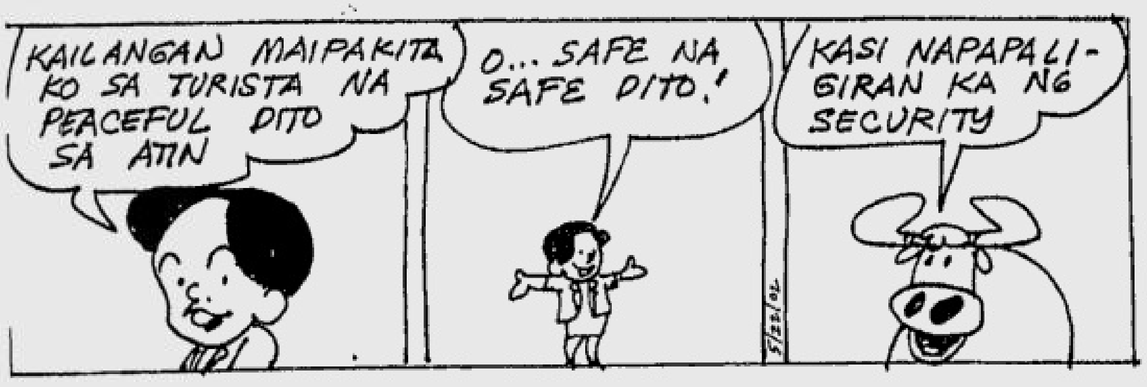
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


SOMETHING FISHY IS GOING ON HERE.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
WELL, OUR MOMMY IS GOING TO HAVE A BABY... YOUR MOMMY IS GOING TO HAVE A BABY, AND YOUR MOMMY IS GOING TO HAVE TWO BABIES.
RIGHT. SO?
I THINK THEY'RE TRYING TO PHASE US OUT.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

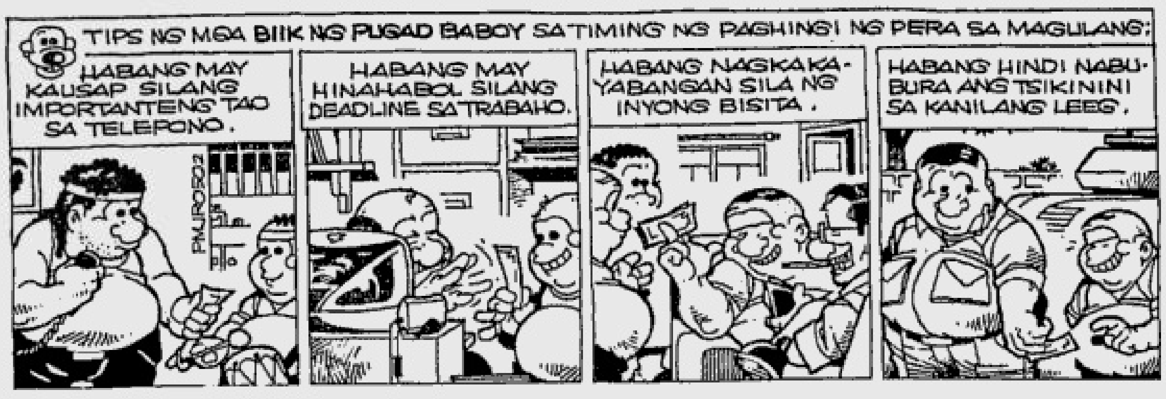
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


KAILANGAN MAIPAKITA KO SA TURISTA NA PEACEFUL DITO SA ATIN
O... SAFE NA SAFE DITO!
KASI NAPAPALIGIRAN KA NG SECURITY
5/22/02

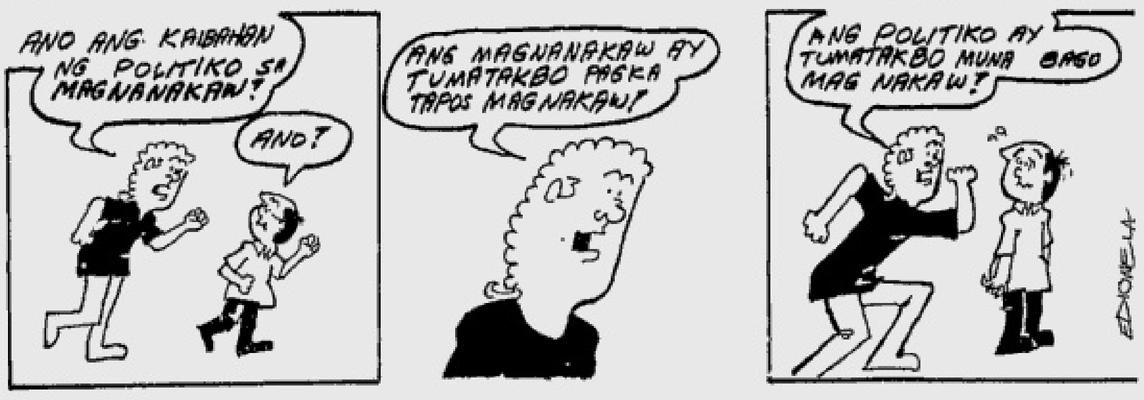
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


TIPS NG MGA BIIK NG PUGAD BABOY SA TIMING NG PAGHINGI NG PERA SA MAGULANG:
HABANG MAY KAUSAP SILANG IMPORTANTENG TAO SA TELEPONO.
HABANG MAY HINAHABOL SILANG DEADLINE SA TRABAHO.
HABANG NAGKAKAYABANGAN SILA NG INYONG BISITA.
HABANG HINDI NABUBURA ANG TSIKININI SA KANILANG LEEG.
PMJR0502

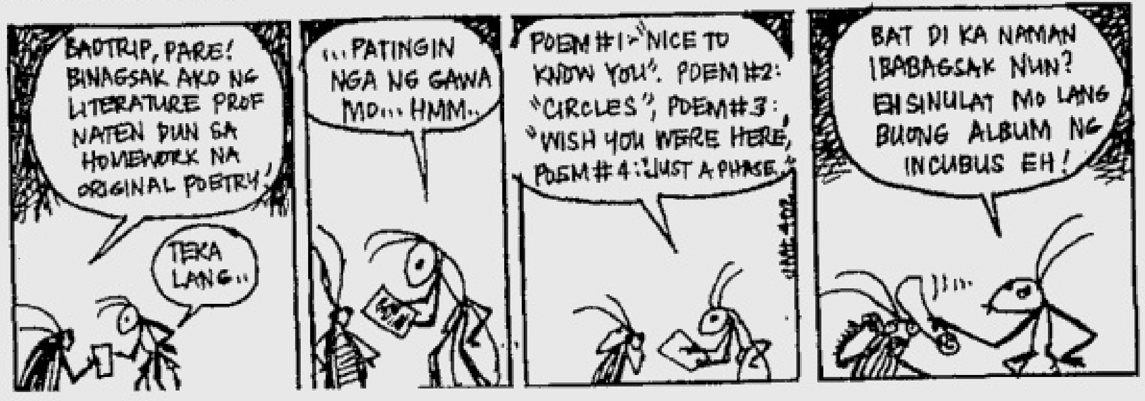
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


ANO ANG KAIBAHAN NG POLITIKO SA MAGNANAKAW?
ANO?
ANG MAGNANAKAW AY TUMATAKBO PAGKATAPOS MAGNAKAW!
ANG POLITIKO AY TUMATAKBO MUNA BAGO MAG NAKAW!
EDIONELA

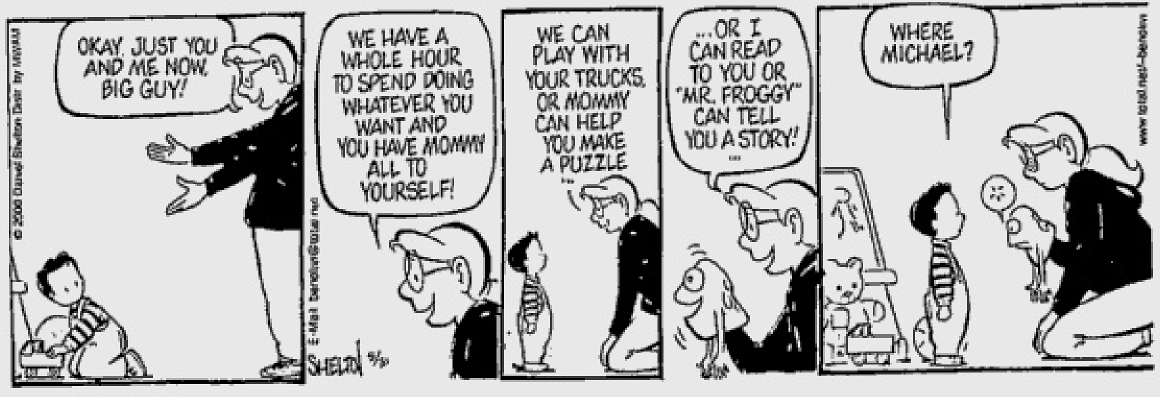
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


BADTRIP, PARE! BINAGSAK AKO NG LITERATURE PROF NATEN DUN SA HOMEWORK NA ORIGINAL POETRY!
TEKA LANG..
...PATINGIN NGA NG GAWA MO... HMM..
POEM #1: "NICE TO KNOW YOU". POEM #2: "CIRCLES", POEM #3: "WISH YOU WERE HERE", POEM #4: "JUST A PHASE."
BAT DI KA NAMAN IBABAGSAK NUN? EH SINULAT MO LANG BUONG ALBUM NG INCUBUS EH!

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


OKAY, JUST YOU AND ME NOW, BIG GUY!
WE HAVE A WHOLE HOUR TO SPEND DOING WHATEVER YOU WANT AND YOU HAVE MOMMY ALL TO YOURSELF!
WE CAN PLAY WITH YOUR TRUCKS, OR MOMMY CAN HELP YOU MAKE A PUZZLE
...OR I CAN READ TO YOU OR "MR. FROGGY" CAN TELL YOU A STORY!
WHERE MICHAEL?
SHELTON

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Sir Laurence Olivier, Richard Benjamin, Naomi Cambell

Happy Birthday: You will have to deal with joint financial transitions this year. Business trips will be necessary. Follow your gut feelings when faced with financial decisions. Real estate, domestic products or services, and matters pertaining to other people's money will occupy your time. This is a year to reevaluate .Your numbers are 8, 12, 17, 26, 31, 39

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You'll be able to attract plenty of attention if you get involved in events that interest you. Your intelligent banter will win the admiration of those you encounter.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Make career plans. Apply for a better position if you don't feel that you are being paid what you're worth. Your creative energy will allow you to come up with unique ideas.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You will be quite willing to be the center of attention today. This will be a terrific day to romance someone you care about.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You will have to be careful how you deal with family members. Someone you live with may not be too understanding today. There is money to be made if you invest in services for your home.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You will be in a competitive mood and will shine regardless of what it is you get involved in today. Your associations with friends or clubs that you join will lead to interesting conversations.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Your relentless drive to complete projects will win respect and recognition for your remarkable achievements. Career moves will help you reach the earning bracket that you should be in.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): The possibility of a romantic encounter should be on your agenda. Your soft-spoken, affectionate manner will be hard to resist. Your unique ideas will be well received.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You can make alterations to your residence that will lift your spirits and raise the value of your property. You should be thinking about getting away for a little rest and relaxation.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Your zest for life will help you when dealing with organizations that you believe in. Unique partnerships can be formed today that will bring you all sorts of added knowledge.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You will be behind today if you have allowed someone you work with to slow you down. Use your ingenuity to turn this possible setback into something progressive and positive. You can dazzle superiors if you put your creative ideas into play.

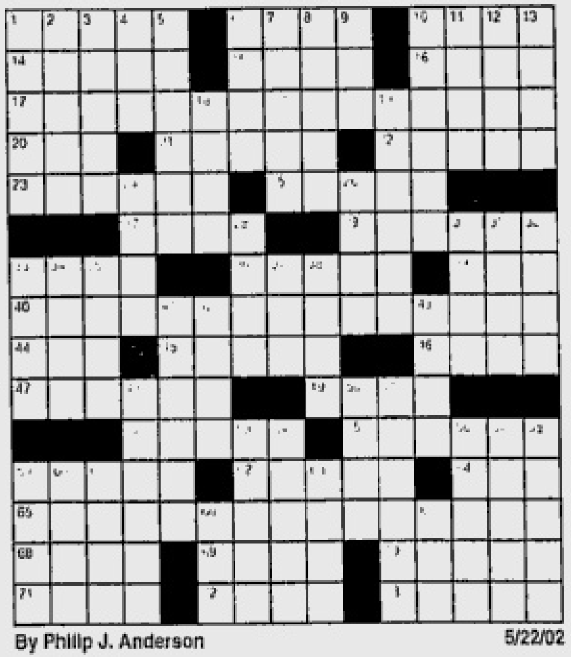
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Plan an outing that will lead to interesting facts about something that interests you. Educational pursuits will help you raise your earning potential.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Money may be on your mind. Your hard work will pay off today. Your ability to get your point across will lead to recognition and respect.

Birthday Baby: You will be charming in your expression and everyone will love your company. You will love to travel, but will only do so if you can afford to go first class. Quality is important to you.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR

5/22/02

ACROSS
1 Ricochet
6 Ruler segment
10 Short race
14 Dispatch boat
15 Irritated
16 Nevada town
17 Goldie Hawn movie promotion?
20 Sounds of hesitation
21 Gallant mount
22 Put on cloud nine
23 Multi-speaker system
25 Unstructured
27 Site of Mont Blanc
29 Overtax
33 So be it!
36 Pope's fanon
39 Medical pic
40 Tom Hanks movie promotion?
44 Org. of Love and Couples
45 Actress Verdugo
46 Slave of the past
47 Unmarried
49 Invitation abbr.
52 Val d'__, France
55 Untidy states
59 Pamplona pal
62 Curiouser and curiouser
64 "Bel __"
65 Gregory Peck movie promotion?
68 Cash drawer
69 College bigwig
70 Paradigm
71 Plus
72 ADC
73 Scandinavian

DOWN
1 Parakeet enclosures
2 Keep from happening
3 Wash cycle
4 Full of: suff.
5 Bit of food
6 Isolated land
7 Inventor of dynamite
8 Doctrine
9 Coop resident
10 Merchant
11 Soprano Gluck
12 Sketch
13 Sharpen
18 Perched on the peak
19 Medieval buffoon
24 Hindu princess
26 Scandinavian capital
28 Vague amount
30 Tan and Irving
31 Islamic republic
32 Baseball team
33 Small, Eurasian vipers
34 Christmas trio
35 Writer Hunter
37 Made tracks
38 Open somewhat
41 Byron of golf
42 Delight
43 D.C. bigwigs
48 Paid escort
50 Old World duck
51 Scavengers
53 Screen parts
54 Ferber and O'Brien
56 More rational
57 Thompson and Samms
58 Crab
59 __ Sanctorum
60 Work long and hard
61 Ailments
63 Fender-bender result
66 Writer LeShan
67 Fuss

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

S	T	A	R	■	S	E	E	R	S	■	C	A	F	E
C	O	L	E	■	A	R	R	O	W	■	U	S	E	D
A	N	I	S	■	A	M	I	C	I	■	T	O	T	E
M	A	K	E	T	R	A	C	K	S	■	A	F	A	R
S	L	E	W	S	■	■	■	E	S	P	N	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	A	L	T	E	R	■	A	D	O	R	E
R	E	S	T	R	A	I	N	■	F	U	R	R	O	W
O	L	L	A	■	S	P	O	K	E	■	U	N	T	O
B	L	A	K	E	S	■	C	R	E	W	N	E	C	K
E	S	T	E	S	■	L	H	A	S	A	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	A	P	S	O	■	■	■	K	A	R	M	A
E	A	C	H	■	H	I	T	T	H	E	R	O	A	D
D	E	L	I	■	A	T	A	R	I	■	O	V	I	D
N	O	O	K	■	R	E	C	A	P	■	S	E	L	L
A	N	T	E	■	P	R	O	P	S	■	E	R	S	E

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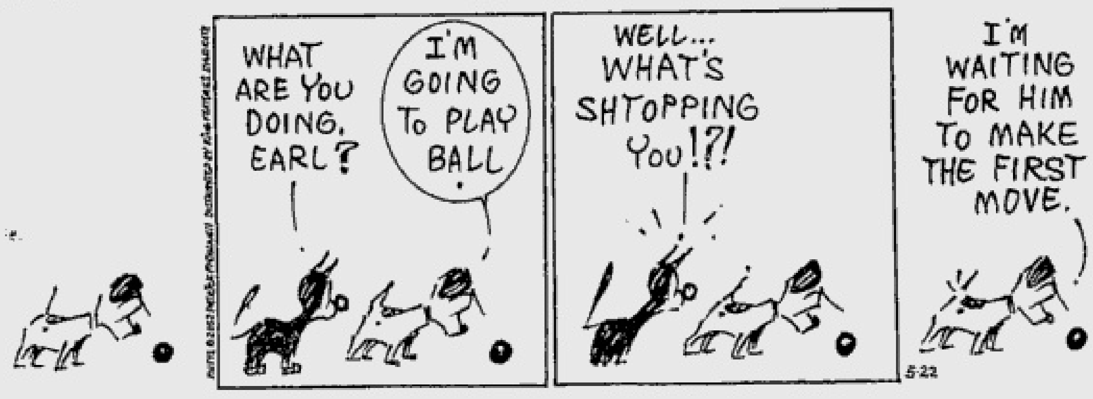
5/22/02

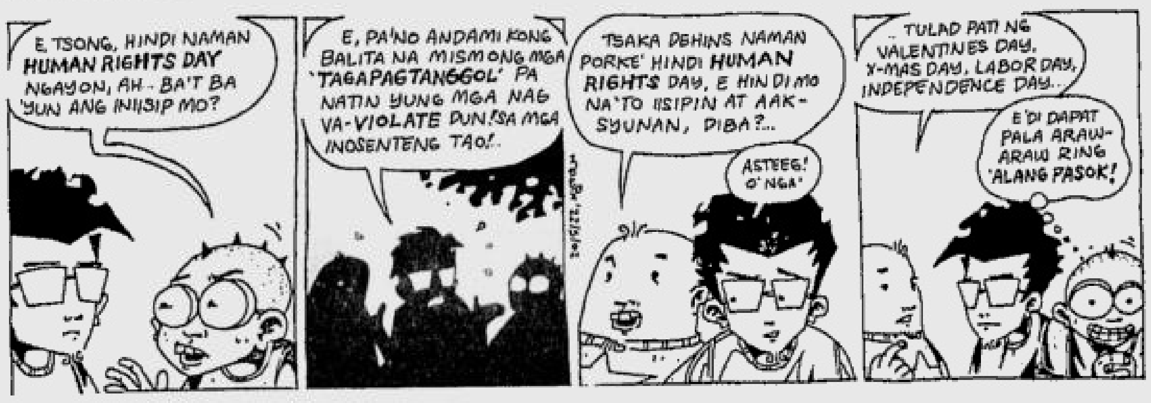
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


WHAT ARE YOU DOING, EARL?
I'M GOING TO PLAY BALL
WELL... WHAT'S SHTOPPING YOU!?!
I'M WAITING FOR HIM TO MAKE THE FIRST MOVE.
5-22

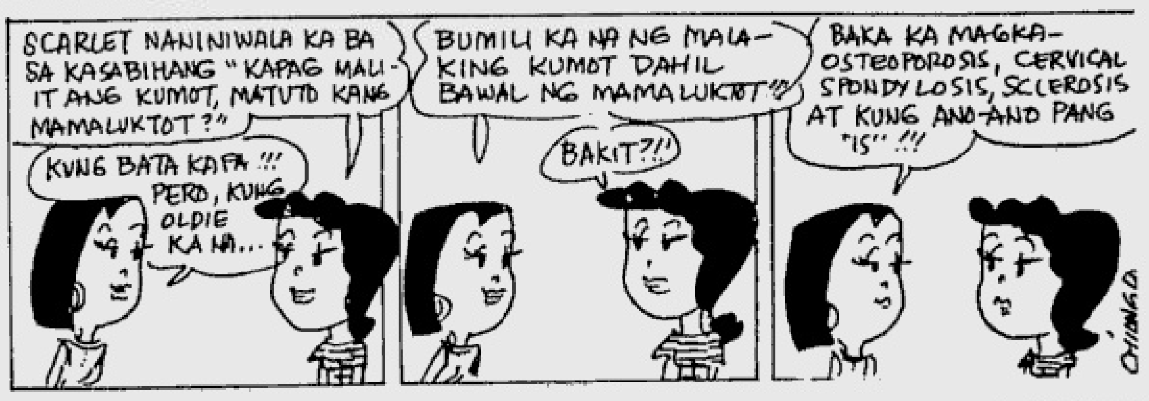
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


E, TSONG, HINDI NAMAN HUMAN RIGHTS DAY NGAYON, AH.. BA'T BA 'YUN ANG INIISIP MO?
E, PA'NO ANDAMI KONG BALITA NA MISMONG MGA 'TAGAPAGTANGGOL' PA NATIN YUNG MGA NAG VA-VIOLATE DUN SA MGA INOSENTENG TAO!..
TSAKA DEHINS NAMAN PORKE' HINDI HUMAN RIGHTS DAY, E HINDI MO NA'TO IISIPIN AT AAKSYUNAN, DIBA?..
ASTEEG! O'NGA'
..TULAD PATI NG VALENTINES DAY, X-MAS DAY, LABOR DAY, INDEPENDENCE DAY..
E'DI DAPAT PALA ARAW-ARAW RING 'ALANG PASOK!

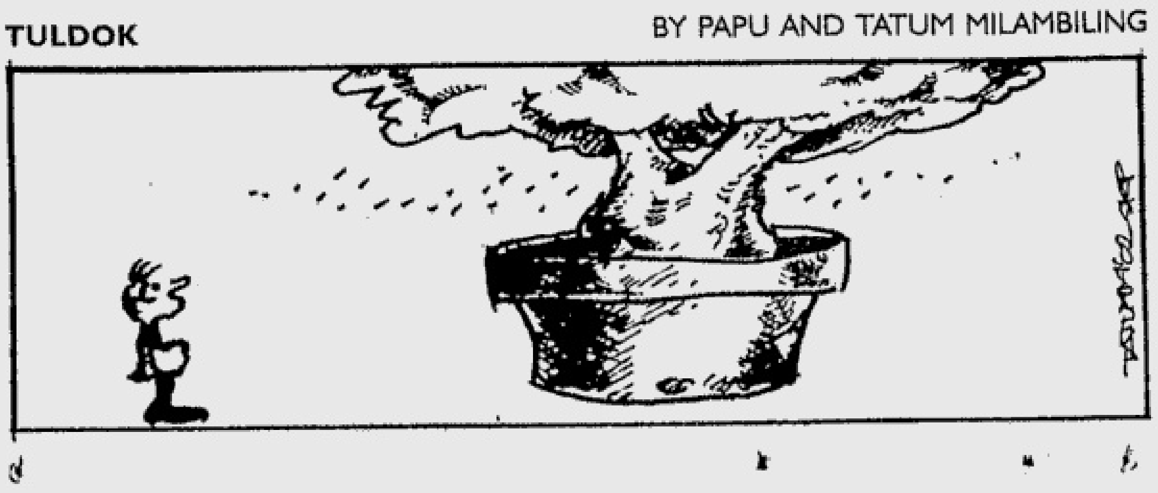
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

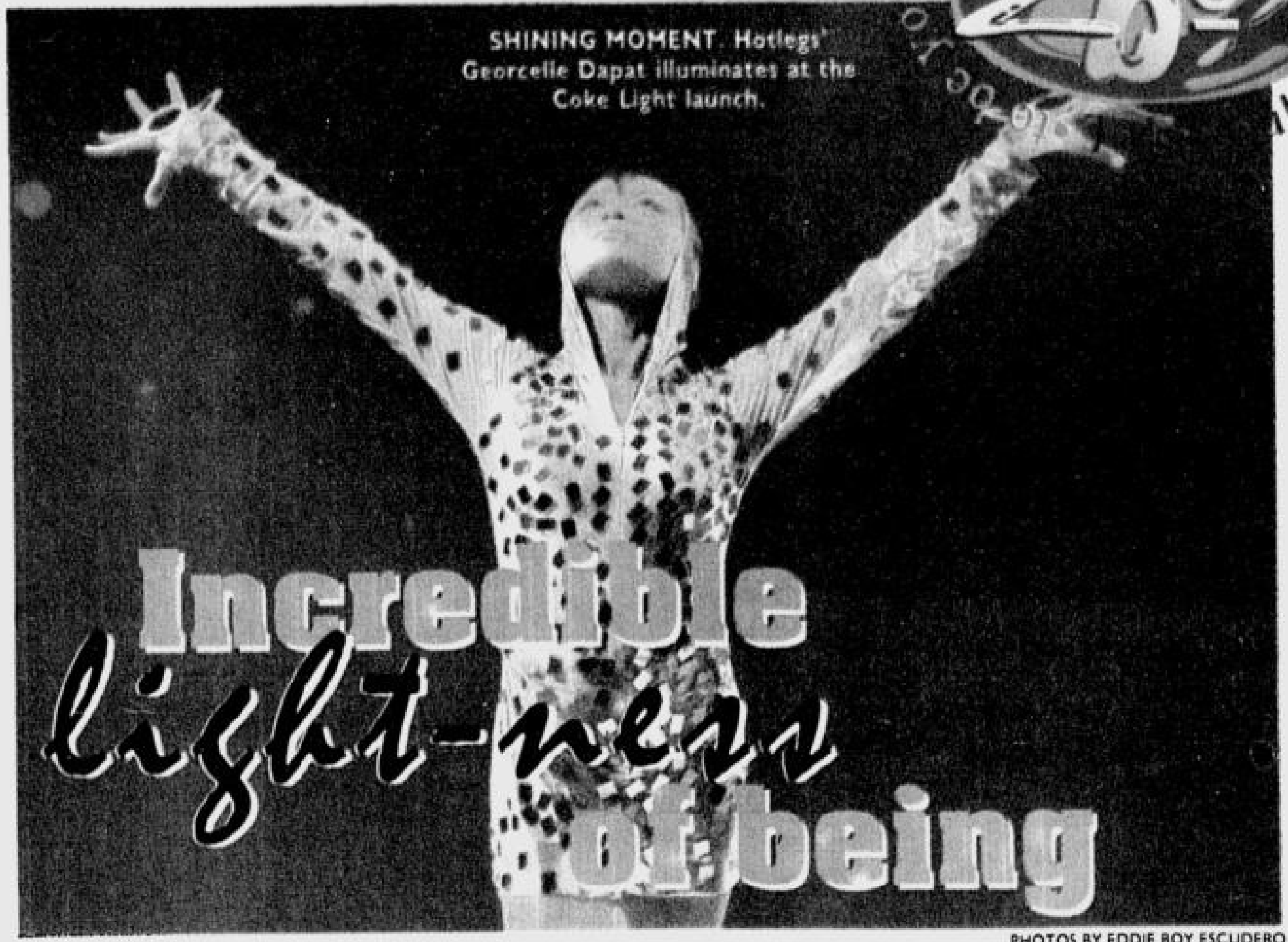

SCARLET NANINIWALA KA BA SA KASABIHANG "KAPAG MALIIT ANG KUMOT, MATUTO KANG MAMALUKTOT?"
KUNG BATA KA PA !!! PERO, KUNG OLDIE KA NA...
BUMILI KA NA NG MALAKING KUMOT DAHIL BAWAL NG MAMALUKTOT!!
BAKIT?!!
BAKA KA MAGKA-OSTEOPOROSIS, CERVICAL SPONDYLOSIS, SCLEROSIS AT KUNG ANO-ANO PANG "IS" !!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING



Incredible light-ness of being


SHINING MOMENT. Hotlegs' Georcelle Dapat illuminates at the Coke Light launch.

PHOTOS BY EDDIE BOY ESCUDERO

VIVA GLAM! Angel Jacob-chic, chic, chic.

A-PLUS. Alex Aquino is back.

BREAK time!" screamed the maverick fashion director **Robby Carmona**, as we all took a breather from the heat of rehearsals at the NBC Tent where the Coke Light launch was to be held. "Coke what?" urbanites would ask.

"Think Diet Coke—low calorie, without the diet taste. Europe and other parts of Asia, say Hong Kong and China, have it," explained a figure-conscious mannequin as we both headed toward the buffet table—it was dinner break after all. I rushed towards the food, lunging the serving spoon toward the fried fish fillet, sautéed vegetables and rice. I looked around after I filled my plate. All of them either reed thin or lean buffed, hastily going the same direction, only to get a piece of banana or mango from the food spread. Worse, some of them just got water.

Later, I found out through Chalk editor-über model **Romina Urra** that they all had dinner already. The models just had an earlier call time than I did. Whew—there went the anorexic model myth.

Talking about the vain and body conscious (that's you and me), they were all there the following day at the Tent, to witness the world in a whole new light. Cocktails were served for the Coke VIPs like **Anders Moeller, Genju Lapez, Alex Panlilio, Kathrine Benitez-Martinez** and **Sharon Garcia**, hip Mc Cann yuppies **Mitch Villegas, Junette Laxamana, Peter Acuna** and **Girlie Herrera** and partyphiles—top celebrities and media mavens (yes, they love Coke) present that Friday night.

"Taste me," said the sexy t-shirt invite placed inside a plastic microwave oven-safe container (shades of S&M—I like!) announcing the event. Entering the venue, one noticed seductive buzzwords filling the walls of the white maze leading to the all-white "Clockwork Orange"-inspired arena—words like "yummy," "light," "no guilt," "high enjoyment," and other words that make you think "heaven."

Coming of age

A few moments after, guests took their places on the bleachers that surrounded the styled stadium. A figure clothed with mirrors acted as a centerpiece, reflecting lasers in all directions. Later, shadows (otherwise known as the Hotlegs) gracefully glided down the field, doing a celebratory dance, signaling the start of something new.

"C-O-K-E L-I-G-H-T!" in green laser form pulsated on the white screen, flirting with the audience's senses. Then the screen went up, revealing white-clad (by **RC** and **Lotho** of Saga) characters—a ballerina, painter, rock star, life guard, construction worker, etc... all in a "fantastic plastic" world—played by **Sarah Meier, Epi Quizon, Angel Jacob, Marc Abaya, Mylene Dizon, Robby Mananquil, 2Tay Maristela, Kiko Escora** and others.

I was also one of the characters, playing an avant-garde studio hawker. I looked around me before the stage veil rose—I was surrounded by young movers and shakers of the field, young people who strove to make a difference, normal looking people (well, save for the supermodels in our midst) just like you and me. It's moments like these that make me feel proud to be part of this generation, in a sort of "coming of age" graduation way.

Pop stars, rock stars, fashion stars, sexy stars and budding stars. Backstage, they were as normal as anyone could get. One was worrying about a pimple, the other was getting sleepy. Someone thought his stomach was getting big while another was talking about the joys of model motherhood.

Later during the show, us "models" formed words that described "Coke Light" via acrostics—it was straight from an episode of "Friends" meets "Shirt Tales." "100% Y-U-M-M-Y," "G-R-E-A-T N-E-W T-A-S-T-E," "L-O-W C-A-L-O-R-I-E, etc..." as we all pouted and posed with Coke-filled delight. The band Livewire provided entertainment as well.

"T-A-S-T-E M-E," the final tableau seductively said.

And we all did.

HOT SEAT. Epi Quizon on the ramp

PUNKY Brewster wears fringe

ART MASTER. Kiko Escora, artist par excellence

GANGSTA BENCH. Robby Mananquil in overalls

YAPARAZZI's day as a Coke seller

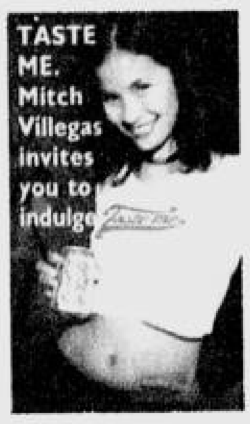
MY OH MY! Mylene Dizon pulsates.

LIVIN' la vida Lana Asanin

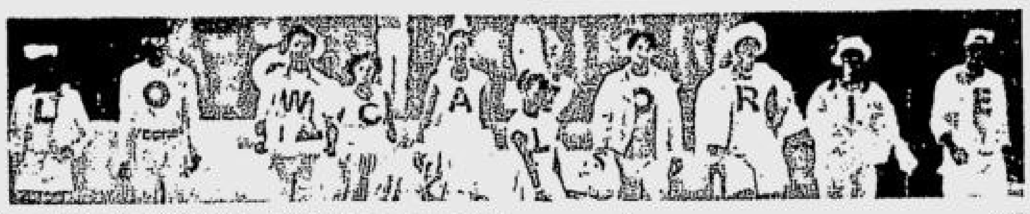
Tim Yap

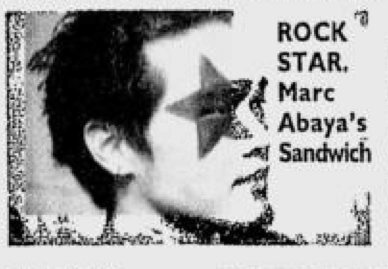
FLAIR. Michelle Schulte exudes a quiet elegance.

LIGHT meal Marc Nelson


TASTE ME. Mitch Villegas invites you to indulge

DRINK Coke Light, have a body like Joey Mead's!




ROCK STAR. Marc Abaya's Sandwich

CHERRY COKE AND VANILLA COKE. Maricar Lim and Dina Devries

CHALK MATES. Romina Urra and Ignacio Loyola

TASTE TEST. Mitch Villegas and Alex Panlilio

SL45 features
K-Java Function
Customize your phone anyway you want e.g. Game phone, Planner phone, Report phone, etc.
MP3 Player
Download your favorite tunes and enjoy up to 90 minutes of digital music
Multimedia Card
Upgradable to a higher capacity to load more songs, files and others
Digital Voice Recorder
Up to 5 hours of Digital Voice Recording (multimedia card dependent)
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A lost child comes back to school

By Anna Garcia
2bUI Correspondent

IN LESS than a month, most of us will be finding ourselves back in school. For us college students, we will have to go through the hell week that is the registration period. While most students are dreading the heat, cramped spaces and long lines, I'm actually looking forward to it. In fact, I can barely stand the wait. There are butterflies in my stomach—quite reminiscent of my very first day in school.

> I've missed school so much. I've come a long way from the brat who kept looking for an excuse to quit life

You see, it has been about 2½ years since I last attended class. One day during my freshman year, I just decided to take off. I dropped everything academic and just left.

I was falling deeper and deeper into depression then. It got so bad that I had people—even myself—convinced that I was nothing but one big emotional black hole. All that I could see and feel was emptiness—one wide, vast void aching to be filled, but with what exactly, I had no idea. So I tried everything.

Living on the fast lane made me forget about my depression. Things moved too fast and my mind couldn't catch up fast enough, which I found to be quite a refreshing change. The sights outside my window were all blurred as I sped by. I loved it. I went out with friends almost every night and partied until the wee hours of the morning.

Nothing worthy

I had a difficult time getting out of bed not only because of the late nights, but because I truly felt like there was nothing worthy in my life to wake up for. Most mornings were spent tossing around in bed wishing I could go right back to sleep and forget I ever woke up. Sometimes I wished I'd somehow forget to breathe.

Registrar
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ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Lucid moments were spent thinking and overanalyzing every little thing from the conversations I had the other day down to my retirement. It's almost comical how my problems weren't caused by a general lack of care for my own welfare. It was because I cared too much that I dwelled on things a lot more than necessary, believing this would help me come to the best conclusion possible. Instead, it ate up my time and monopolized my brain activity. I couldn't see beyond the box I had placed myself into.

I ended up with an 8-to-5 job that didn't help my situation at all. If anything else, it made it worse. I became a corporate slave—yet another overworked, overqualified and underpaid young thing in the evil world of money, wrinkles and power suits. People ran to me for help and ended up getting all the credit because they had a degree and I didn't.

I had to learn to commute around the metropolis, even though I had made it distinctly clear to everyone within hearing range and beyond that I absolutely detested taking public transportation. Nobody cared. After a shamefully large number of failed attempts at eliciting compassion from family members with cars, I gave up and shut up.

More humble

Shutting up eventually became a habit. I also shut out nosey people and learned the difference between caring and obsessing. Patience came with having to put up with demanding bosses and gossipy officemates. These two years in work made me a little more humble.

Two years is a long time. I think I've come a long way from the brat who kept looking for an excuse to quit life. I have learned that I know nothing and have somehow managed to get that thirst for knowledge back. I may not appreciate the fact that other people are getting ahead of me only because they have degrees, but I have to accept the fact that it works that way here and I have no other choice but to follow. It's either that or spend the rest of my life as a bum.

I've missed school so much. Whenever I got together with friends, they'd complain about their schoolwork and tell me I was better off for leaving. I wasn't. I'm not. But I'm working on it.

This June I will be going through everything you will be, but it will mean so much more to me. When you've crashed and hit rock bottom, you learn to appreciate the things most people take for granted.

The lost child has been found again and it feels absolutely wonderful.

E-mail the author at omnifartent@hotmail.com.

What it costs to get a college education

Tuition fees of incoming freshmen in selected Metro Manila universities and colleges [a] (in pesos, per unit, SY 2002-2003)

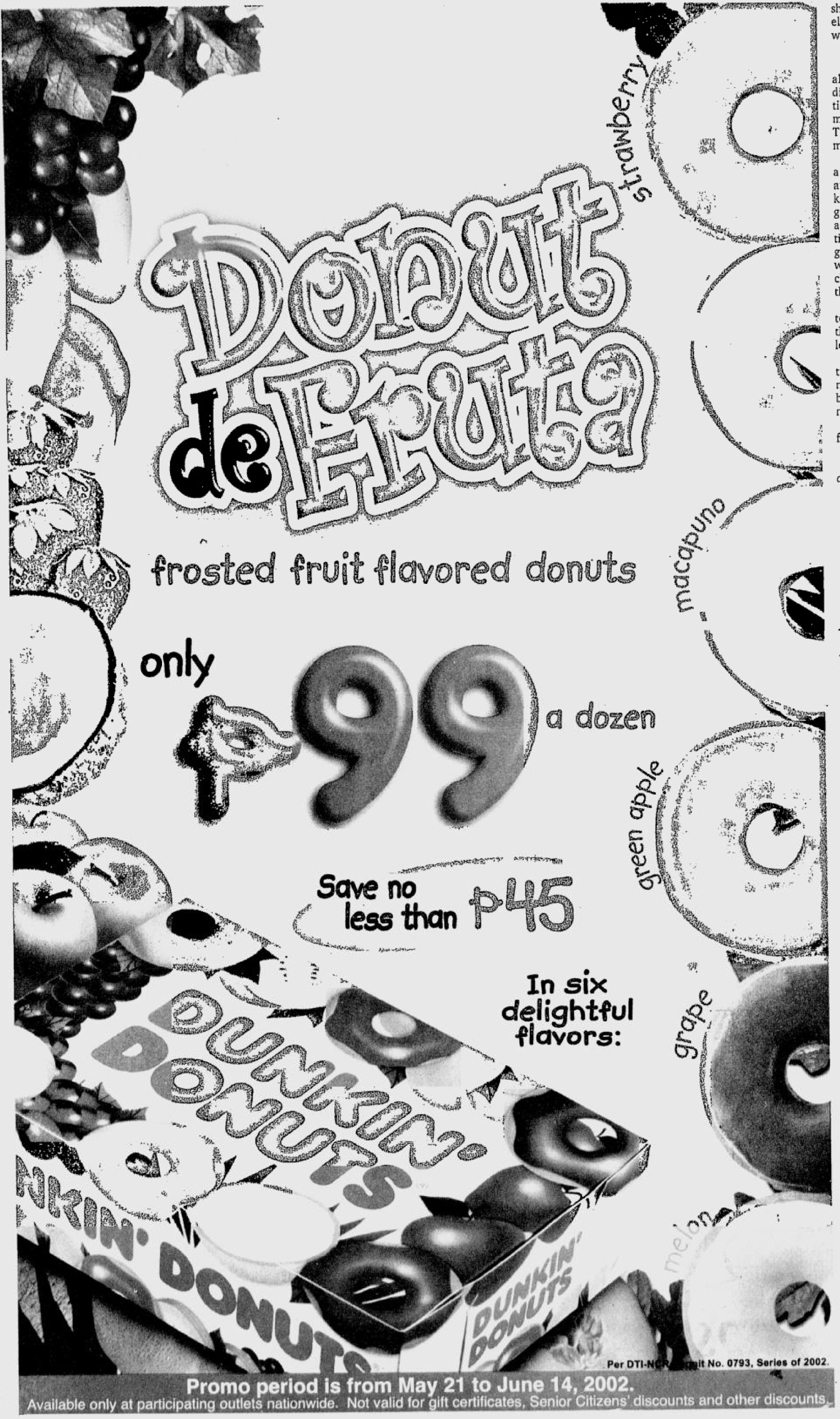
1 University of Asia and the Pacific	1,694.00
2 De La Salle University	1,649.00 [b]
3 Ateneo de Manila University	1,586.05
4 Mapua Institute of Technology	1,210.00 [b]
5 Miriam College	1,180.00
6 St. Scholastica's College	1,125.00
7 Assumption College	1,114.00
8 College of Holy Spirit	821.74
9 San Beda College	800.00
10 AMA Computer College	760.00 [b]
11 St. Paul College (Quezon City)	746.00
12 University of Perpetual Help	733.00
13 University of Santo Tomas	716.00
14 International Academy of Management and Economics	700.00
15 St. Joseph's College	690.24
16 University of the East	676.00 [b]
17 Lyceum University	600.00
18 Philippine Women's University	595.00
19 Letran College	564.00
20 Trinity College	549.00
21 St. Paul College (Manila)	544.62
22 San Sebastian College	541.85
23 Far Eastern University	534.00
24 Arellano University	520.65
25 Manuel L. Quezon University	507.00 [b]
26 Manila Central University	489.00 [b]
27 National University	438.75
28 Adamson University	429.00 [b]
29 Feati University	397.10
30 Technological Institute of the Phils.	391.10 [c]
31 Philippine Christian University	340.00
32 University of the Philippines	300.00
33 Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila	71.00
34 Technological University of the Phils	35.71
35 Polytechnic University of the Phils	12.00
36 Philippine Normal University	10.71 [c]

[a] List excludes Thames International Business School which charges a flat rate of P32,000 per full-time student (excludes miscellaneous and other fees)

[b] Highest tuition fee per unit charged among the various rates depending on the course

[c] PNU rate is based on P225 total charge for 21 units; TUP = P1,000 per semester for 28 units

COMPILED BY ARMIN ADINA, CHONA GALANG AND MARICAR TOLOSA, PDI RESEARCH



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A night of acoustic 'Double Trouble'

Rivermaya and Slapshock shine in friendly duel

By Maui V. Reyes
Photos by Maui V. Reyes and Jim Guiao Punzalan

WHEN it rains, it pours. I start to worry as the first drops of the rainy season fall on my head and I head toward the Music Museum. As glum as it seems outside, inside are rapcore, pop and rock mixed in a blender and served up in a glass of an amazing acoustic performance.

"Double Trouble," the poster reads. I think of those many remixes you download online.

"I'm nervous, really," Kakoi Legaspi, one of

A NIGHT/ p.D2

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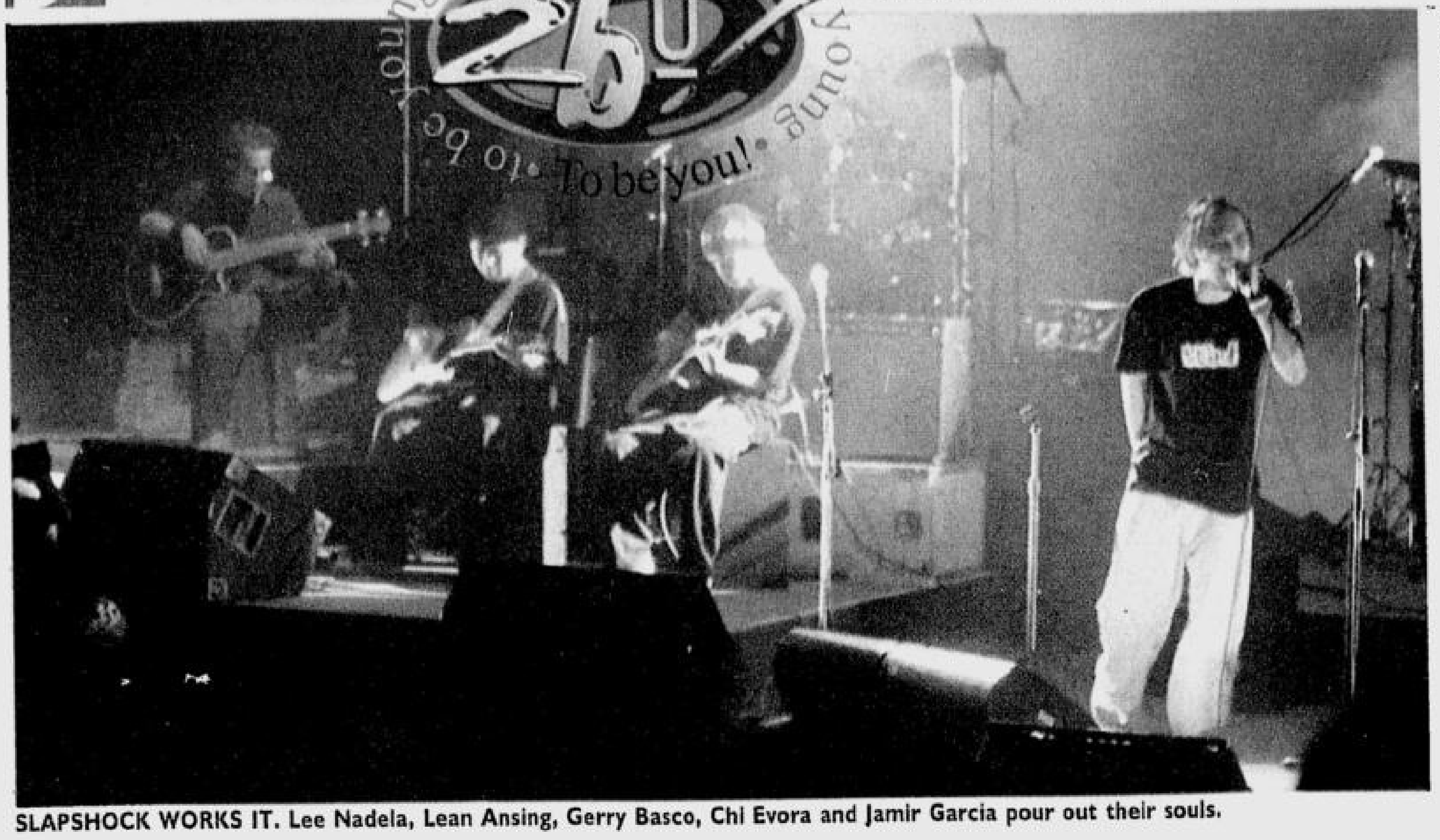
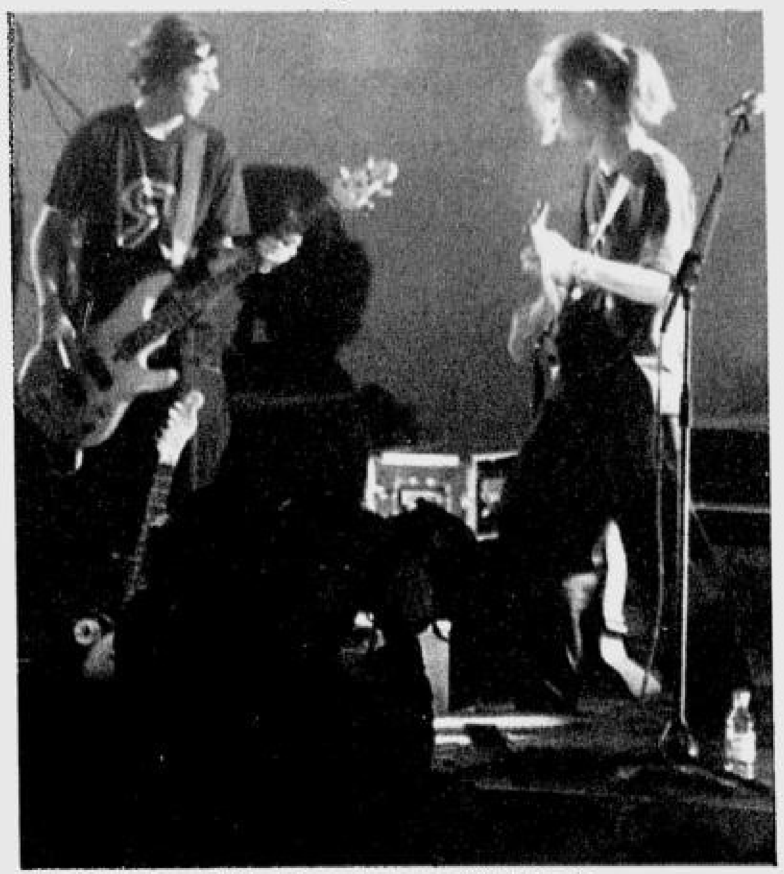
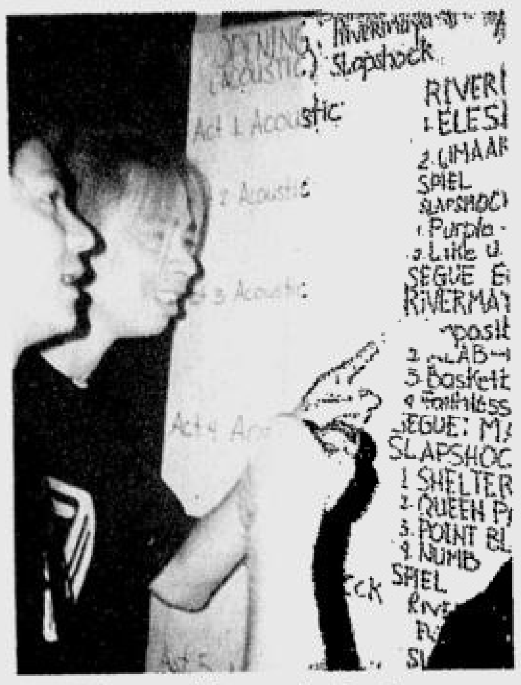

SLAPSHOCK WORKS IT. Lee Nadela, Lean Ansing, Gerry Basco, Chi Evora and Jamir Garcia pour out their souls.


JAPS Sergio and Mike Elgar do some string magic.

A night of acoustic 'Double Trouble'


MIKE Elgar and the production team finalize the bands' set list.

From page D1

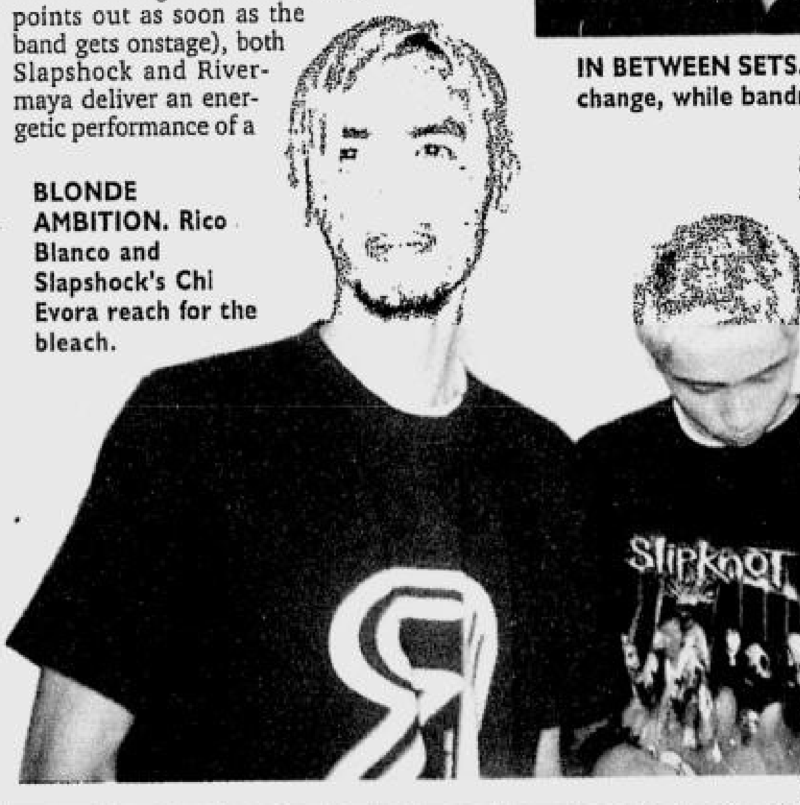
Rivermaya's guitarists, confesses. Rico, on the other hand, is busy humming Slapshock songs in Slapshock's dressing room.

"*Tama ba tono ko, pare?*" he asks Jamir Garcia of Slapshock. The rest of the band laughs nervously. Lee Nadela, who now sports blue hair ("*Kala mo ikaw lang* blue, *ha!*"), won't let me in on what's in store for the audience. "Surprise, surprise, *basta*, surprise," he teases. I ask Francis Guevarra of EMI Records if they get around in a group hug and say a little prayer. Francis laughs.

"No, but I'm sure they'll go jump around a bit as a warm-up."

Ever seen 10 musicians onstage baring their soul to the crowd (forget about the Lilith Fair, we're talking OPM)? Armed with acoustic guitars and bongos ("There's the *kahon* I sold Mark!" Imago's Zach Lucero points out as soon as the band gets onstage), both Slapshock and Rivermaya deliver an energetic performance of a Sevendust song, opening a show that will showcase both bands' talents like never before.

As I said, when it rains, it pours.


BLONDE AMBITION. Rico Blanco and Slapshock's Chi Evora reach for the bleach.

IT'S not easy being a rock star. Jamir shows off his vain side.

IN BETWEEN SETS. Shy guy Mike does an impromptu costume change, while bandmate Kakoi Legaspi downs some booze.

Thunder

Rivermaya take the stage first after both bands' jamming session. The pattern is like this: one band plays two songs, then the other band plays two songs, and so forth.

Usually bands reserve their latest singles or best hit as their encore. After their first song, "Elesi," the band jumps into "Umaaraw, Umuulan."

Bigger surprises are in store. Positioning himself behind a keyboard, Rico, together with Japs Sergio (bass), Mike Elgar (guitars), Kakoi, and Mark Escueta (drums), dishes out revamped versions of their hits such as "Basketball" and "Himala." "Faithless" is given a lounge beat, and Björk's "State of Emergency" is laced into one of their songs. And, let's not leave out their superb, and almost eerie, cover of Slapshock's "Evil Clown."

"That was damn good," Jamir says onstage after Rivermaya's performance. "I can't sing that song ever again, I don't think I'll be able to pull it off."

And who would have thought Rivermaya would do a cover? Coldplay's "Shiver" finds itself in the band's set list. "*Mahirap na ngayon ang pera,*" Rico jokes. "*Mga 10 taon na namin hindi natutugtog 'to. Parang ayaw ko ngang itugtog, baka mali labas, eh...*" Just as he dives into the first few notes of "214," he tells the audience, "*Walang iiyak, ha!*" then belts out the song a few notes higher.

"Wag Na Init" has Rico getting the audience to sing along. He even jumps down to pose for pictures with fans and butter up the crowd.

Lightning

Ten years down the road, when Jamir can no longer do throat as well as he does now, when he can no longer scream as passionately as he does at every show, Slapshock will have something to fall back on.

When you remove the loud guitars, the fast beats of the drums and those pounding bass lines, you get a soulful performance. Slapshock proves that it can hack it minus the moshing crowd and the rowdy college kids.

Slapshock's set opens with the song "Purple," off their second album, "Headtrip." A contrast to Rivermaya's hyped-up opening, "Purple" is laid back with that acid jazz feel to it. Compared to their usual head banging, feet-stomping concerts, their first few sets actually make you want to get up and dance. They don't miss a single beat, and if they ever do, no one will notice.

Returning the favor of Rivermaya, Slapshock does a cover of a 'Maya song, "Shattered Like." "I hope I did justice to the song," Jamir humbly says after the performance.

Unlike Rivermaya, who were able to practice for the last four days (and who are obviously used to doing acoustic sets), Slapshock didn't have that kind of luxury because they were in the studio recording their third album, "Project 11-41."

"We practiced [the day before the concert], and we stayed up until 3 a.m. running through the whole set," guitarist Gerry Basco says. "We only rehearsed during sound check today."

Although both bands go fully electric after a few ping-pong of sets, Slapshock still manages to pull through even after just one practice. Playing songs from their soon-to-be released album, the band is only happy that the audience appreciates the new songs and that the hard task of going acoustic is over.

"I hope we did well," guitarist Lean Ansing says. I assure him, along with drummer Chi Evora, that it was beyond "well."

"Bordering on amazing," I say.

I love rock 'n' roll

The bands jam together, each singing one another's songs. Rivermaya looks like a boy band with the members' similar shirts. Director Lyle Sacris flashes his pornographic thesis on the screen behind the band. Truly a show full of surprises.

Rico Blanco is producing Slapshock's new album, which is undergoing a few final mixes before being served hot and fresh in your friendly record store. Because of this connection, I immediately assume this was the reason behind both bands' hook-up.

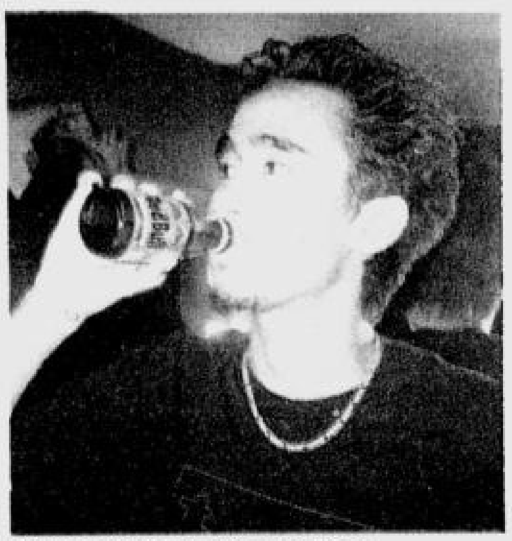
"It was my idea," Rivermaya's manager, Lizza Nakpil, says. "If it's good rock 'n' roll, I'll go with it. It's all about OPM. Sans that one ("Coldplay") song, it's all OPM. And it's good. It's good rock 'n' roll."

Good rock 'n' roll is an understatement. The two bands' members work their instruments like magic—Mark Escueta even banging on those drums for Slapshock from time to time. Rico and Jamir have such good stage presence that they work up the crowd without even trying.

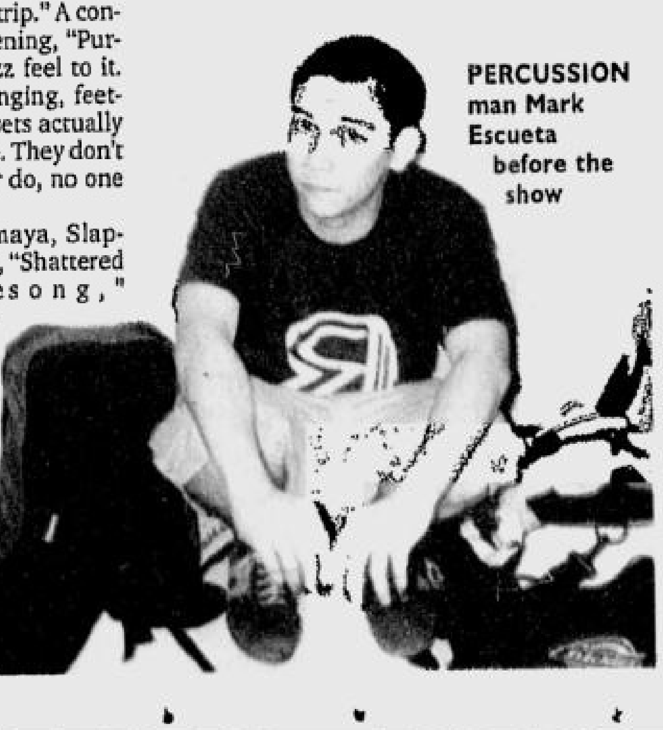
By the time I step out of the concert hall, the rain has stopped.

Let's just hope OPM talent will continue to pour out.

E-mail the author at volcanogirl28@hotmail.com


ENERGY drink is the way to go. Slapshock's Lee Nadela and his new 'do

ERASERHEADS' Raimund Marasigan and Imago's Aia de Leon check out the show.


PERCUSSION man Mark Escueta before the show

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DESIGNER Coralie Charriol with SSI's Anton Huang

PHILIPPE Charriol Far East Ltd. (PCFE Ltd.) and Store Specialists Inc., the local franchisee for the Geneva-based fashion empire, co-hosts the Asian premiere of Charriol's luxury leather handbag collection designed by Coralie Charriol, the willowy blonde daughter of Philippe Charriol who will preside over the launch.

Tonight's event at the Rizal Ballroom of the Makati Shangri-La bears the theme "Magical Colours of Charriol World."

The Shangri-La Ballroom takes on the jollity of a carnival as magicians, illusionists, mime artists, fire jugglers and stilt walkers do their merry thing to herald the "magical colours" of the new Charriol handbag collection.

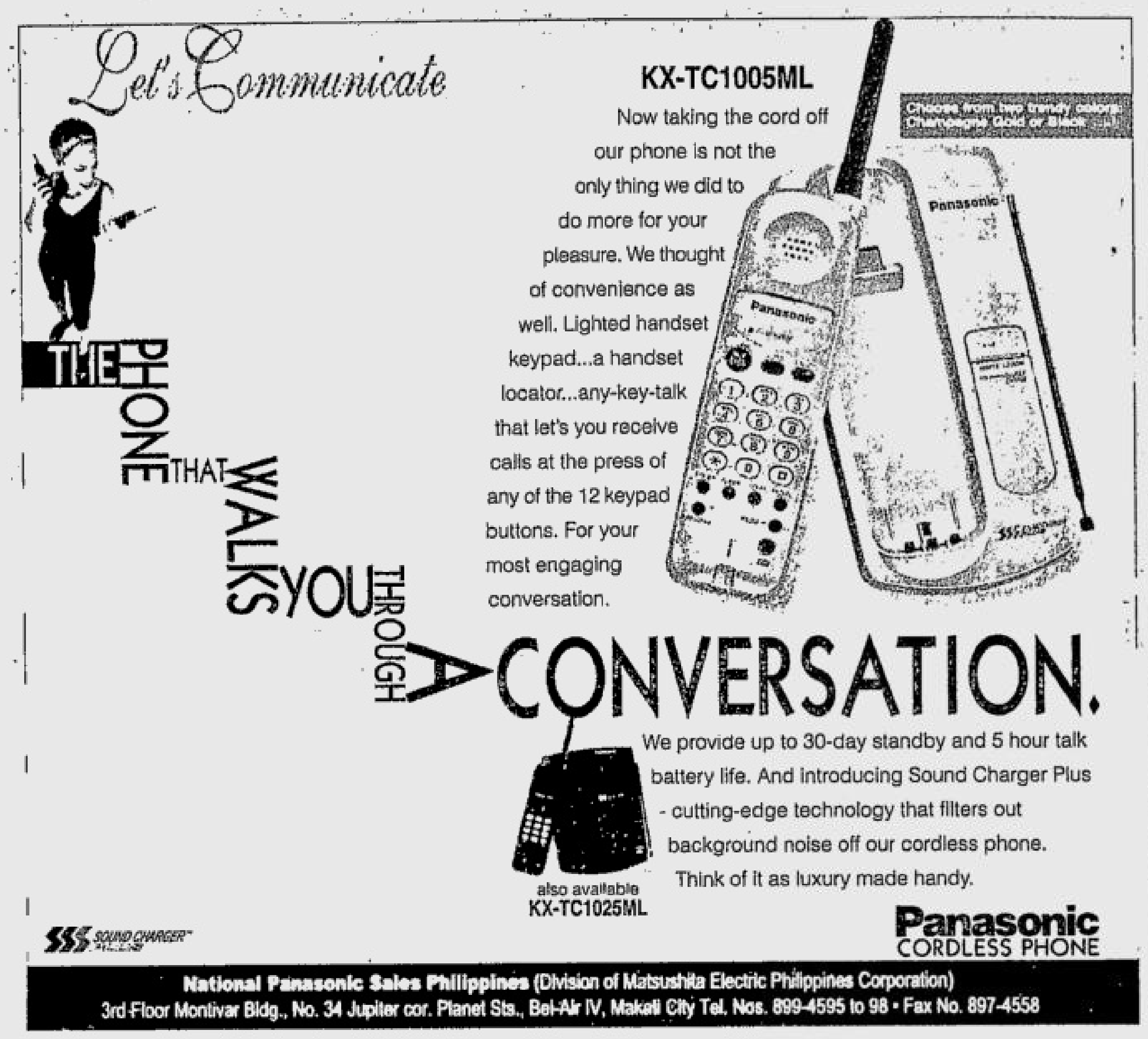
In addition to Coralie, Philippe Charriol and his wife Annick as well as Peter Ling, the managing director of Charriol, will grace the evening.

The launch of the new handbag line will be the culmination of a two-day Charriol Asia-Pacific Regional meeting of its agents—the first time this key annual meeting has been held outside of Geneva or Hong Kong.

Also forming part of the Charriol entourage in Manila are 45 leading fashion and lifestyle editors from the region, and 30 of its agents or franchisees.

Under the prestigious SSI banner, Charriol in the Philippines has seen the biggest growth of any other franchisee in the region, with four shops within Rustan's and two stand-alone boutiques in Glorietta Mall and Rockwell Center's Power Plant.

Leading the guests will be Senate president Frank Drilon and Senate minority floor leader Loren Legarda-Leviste, and chair of the Rustan Group of Companies, Ambassador Bienvenido R. Tantoco, Sr.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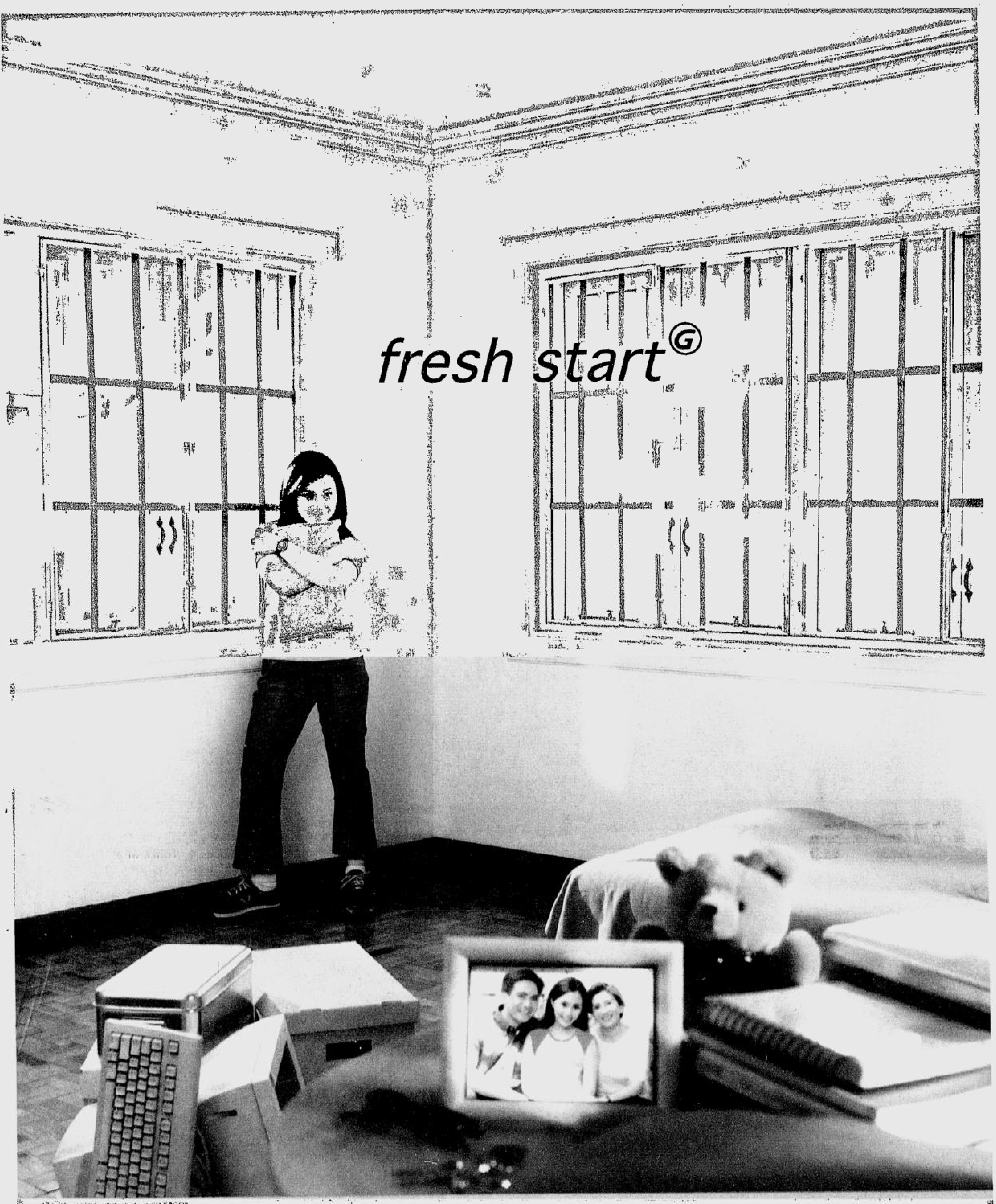

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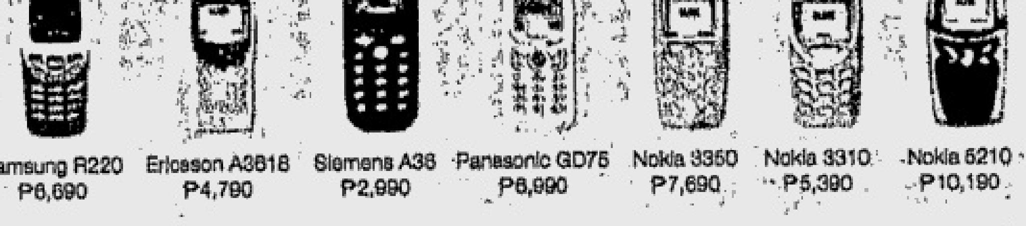

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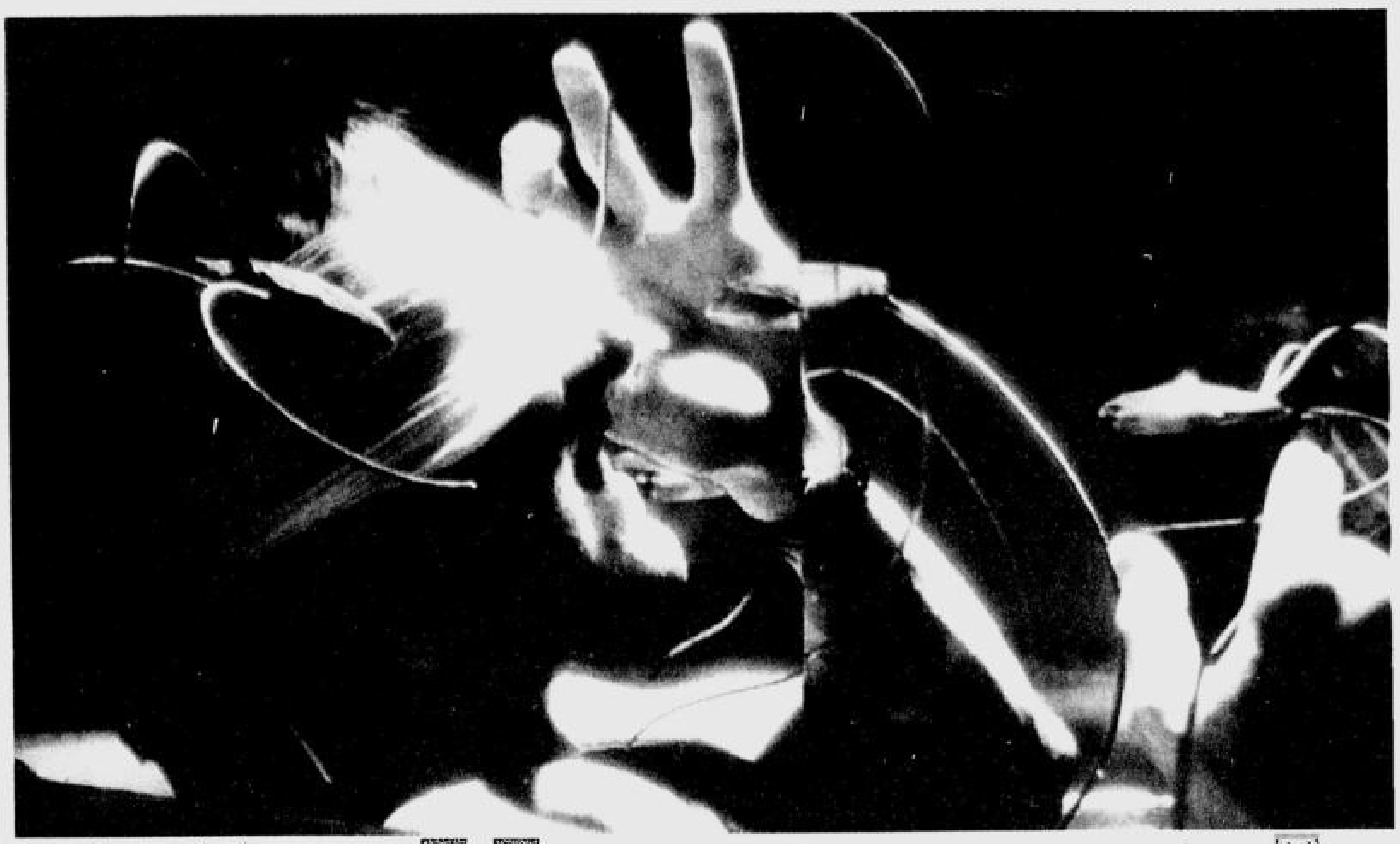


Hollywood turns up the heat

Expect new 'Potter' and 'Lord of the Rings' movies at the end of the year

By Jose Manzano
Contributor

THE OSCARS capped one of Hollywood's greatest and most memorable years; but the action never stops in Tinsel town, as they say, with cameras lapping roll upon roll of precious negatives, promising even bigger movies and more memorable moments this year. That means we just find ourselves theater-bound for much of 2002.

Already, Columbia Pictures (Sony), Paramount and Universal Pictures have scored big hits in the "**Panic Room**" (Jodie Foster), "**Changing Lanes**" (Ben Affleck and Samuel Jackson) and "**The Scorpion King**" (Dwayne Johnson a.k.a. The Rock), respectively. In the latter film, the wrestling superstar proved he could just be the missing heir to the throne left vacant by action superstars Arnold Schwarzenegger and Bruce Willis. His movie scored a hefty $80 million in its first four weeks.

But "Scorpion King" will have to relinquish his grip on the box office throne to another arachnid action hero "**Spider-Man**", the first movie ever to top the $200 million mark in its second week of release.

"Spider-Man" is expected to stay on top of the charts, even with the release of "**Star Wars II: The Attack of the Clones.**" Even if "Episode II" tops the charts, box-office pundits say it won't be there for long as film studios continue the battle royale of big-budgeted and star-studded films.

'THE LORD OF THE RINGS: THE TWO TOWERS'

Mark it on your calendar: Dec. 16, 2002.

You wouldn't mind watching another three-hour epic would you? The first "LOTR" installment was just a preview of more great battles and adventures that will be the highlight of the second part of this epic trilogy. Peter Jackson, the movie's director, is currently filming additional scenes in New Zealand with Elijah Wood. Filming actually wrapped up simultaneously with part 1 (and part 3), but additional scenes were needed to make the movie even more compelling than the first one. We all have to see.

You may want to read the book this time, although this practice of reading the book after watching the movie is not highly recommended. But after having seen the movie, wouldn't you want to read the second novel of the classic trilogy of books by J.R.R. Tolkien that nearly single-handedly established the modern genre of fantasy fiction, as we know it?

Waiting scale (Four full moons and a half)

'HARRY POTTER AND THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS'

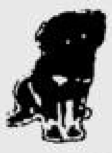
Mark it on your calendar: Nov. 15, 2002.

The young wizard takes on bigger challenges on his second year at Hogwarts. Upon his return to school, Harry hears a mysterious evil voice. It seems the dreaded Chamber of Secrets is open once again and is set to wreak havoc on all of Hogwarts.

The movie's director, Chris Columbus, promises that "Chamber" will have more pizzazz than the previous "Potter" movie, citing Harry's growth and maturity as a wizard as reason for greater power and adventures, which will be shown in great detail in this sequel. While the interest in the first movie was based on Harry's introduction into the world of magic, this next movie would be interesting for one to see how Harry comes into his own, realizing his true potential as a great wizard.

"Waiting" scale: (Three full moons and a half)

HOLLYWOOD/ p.E2



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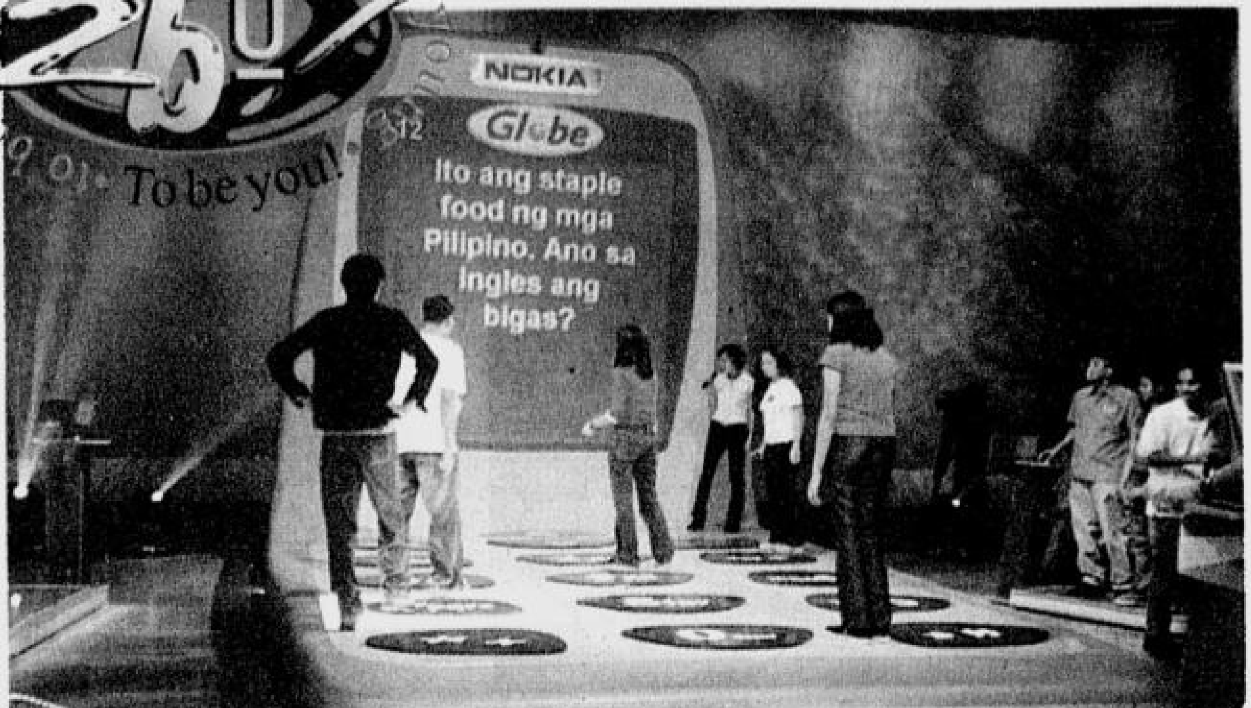
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Ito ang staple food ng mga Pilipino. Ano sa Ingles ang bigas?

2bU! correspondents spent an afternoon playing Txtrs 5—three of them tell all

How to win a game show and other lessons

Texting By Foot

WHEN I first watched Txtrs5, I found the game hilarious. Here are adults running around a giant cell phone keypad stomping their foot to spell out words – which more often than not, turn out misspelled anyway. Of course, when I played the game myself, for all the humor on me, I stopped laughing.

At the invitation of Globe, a group of 2bu! correspondents went to the GMA studio and played a mock game – *mock*, meaning no cash prize and no Paolo Bediones as host. Txtrs5 is a game normally lasting for 3 rounds. Round One eliminates one of two teams. Round Two determines the pot prize. Round Three gives you a chance to double your winnings. Quite amazing since it allows the team to bring home as much as P1 million.

That fateful day, our team won Round One, banked zero (!) in Round Two, and eliminated all hopes of playing Round Three. There was nothing to double after all. As Paolo Bediones would later on comment to us, "I'm sorry, girls, but that's *pathetic*!" Indeed it was.

Texting with one's foot turned out to be so much more complicated than texting with one's fingers. In the latter, one could even boast of texting while driving, texting blindfolded, or texting with so-and-so words per minute. In the former, you would be lucky to text a 5-letter word within 20 seconds. One has to alternate between stomping (to make sure it registers electronically) and walking lightly as if on tiptoe (to avoid punching "unwanted" characters). Now that's a tough balancing act especially with a time limit and a live audience to boot!

"Joining Txtrs5 changed my life," a teammate jokingly gushed. While that may be an obvious exaggeration, the experience did offer a number of insights. First, that game shows are won not purely by luck but by a measure of strategy as well. Our team divided the keypad quite beautifully and shouted the letters as we stomped. That perhaps doesn't qualify as a brilliant strategy, but for the purposes of the game, we did win that round. Paolo would later on share, "there is a science to this game. My secret is that I just tap lightly on the side. The machine is very sensitive. Also, there's the matter of leg-eye coordination."

Another lesson is that in games like these, teamwork precedes individual skill. There's only so much that one can do running around the keypad. But there's so much more a team can achieve if each one sticks to his/her task and performs accordingly.

At the end of the day, I realized that there is no shame in joining game shows. It takes as much skill, as much strategy, and as much mental discipline as it takes luck and prayer. And one must never forget to enjoy!

eslie Ann C. Tan

WHEN I signed up to join a trial run of Globe's Txtrs5, I thought I had it in the bag. After all, how hard would it be to step on a giant keypad? I was so used to texting, I thought, typing in words on a humongous cell phone would be easy as pie.

When we reached Studio 3 of GMA-7, I was fairly bubbling over with excitement. Smack in the middle was a giant cellphone, but we were all surprised when we saw that there were a lot of people in the stands, because we knew that we would just be playing a mock game. Somebody explained that there really was a taping on that day, but we, the 2bu! correspondents, would get to try out the game first. Nevertheless, I checked out my hair in the bathroom first, and despite my most valiant attempts to look nonchalant about the whole thing, I couldn't help looking around furtively for any teenybopper stars I could recognize.

We had to go through the whole routine, from making a team cheer to introducing ourselves. The stand-in emcee even asked the studio audience to clap for us once in a while, which made the whole thing feel real. The best part was, although we weren't going to be televised at all, we could see how we looked on TV. I took one glance when it was my turn to be shown on the large TV monitors, and with a heavy heart decided that I should stick to writing. We didn't take home anything that day, but the two hours we spent on the set were more than enough to teach us a few valuable lessons:

1. Nothing in life is ever easy, not even joining game shows.

The odds of being drawn to be a studio contestant are practically one in a million. While any moron can answer the questions (which ranged from "what is the first name of Jordan, NBA's superstar" to "what is the first name of our current president"), it takes strategy to type in the answers. You need to step on the keypads with just the right pressure so you can type in the correct letter. Stomp too hard, and you end up with a number instead of a letter.

Corollary: I used to believe that game shows are an easy way to get rich, but now I know better. While jumping around a giant keypad is infinitely more enjoyable than say, selling newspapers in the streets, there really is no painless way to earn money.

2. Take pleasure in the smallest things.

When we won the first round over the other team, we were practically jumping up and down. We were squealing with glee so much that you'd thought we had actually won something. It turned out to be a good thing to do, because when we got to the second round, none of us managed to type in the correct answers on time. We didn't earn anything, and since the third round was meant to double whatever you racked up for the second round, the game was unfortunately finished early, as there was no last round. So learn to be content with the seemingly mundane, because you never know when you'll have the chance again to celebrate.

3. Don't laugh at other people unless you really know what they're going through.

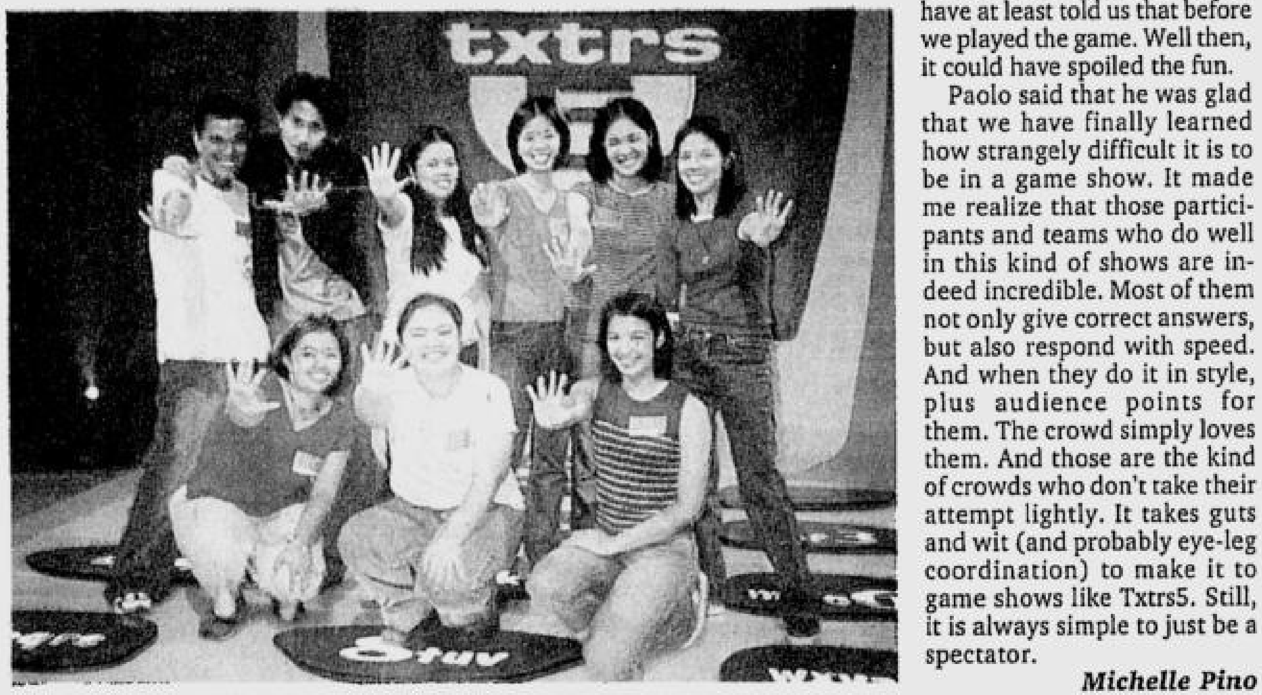
The first time I watched Txtrs5, I would practically hurl things at the TV set when a team would fail to get the right answer. Ditto for all game shows—"such simple questions and they can't even answer that?" After we played the game, we didn't feel much like looking around, because I think we all didn't want to see anyone laughing at us. It was a good thing it wasn't televised, or we would have incurred the ire of the entire nation. Needless to say, I now have a certain respect for people who join and actually win something in game shows.

4. When you're face to face with Paolo Bediones, have the presence of mind to say something.

The Globe people asked the game show's host to sit with us for a few minutes for us to shoot some questions. For a few seconds, everyone was too surprised to say something. Personally I was kind of, well, starstruck, because I wasn't expecting that we could actually have the chance to talk to him. Then somebody asked him about his current shows, and in fluent English, Paolo proceeded to recount his grueling schedule. Fresh from our adrenaline-pumping experience on the giant keypads, I mustered the courage to ask him if he'd ever tried out the game for himself. He grinned and said, "You've got to concentrate and not lose your count of how many times you have to step. Most contestants get nervous, so they can't answer questions they could easily answer otherwise." Not only was he absolutely gorgeous, but he was also gracious and articulate. Paolo Bediones Fans Club, count us in.

We might all have finished the game with sheepish smiles on our faces (what with our totally dismal performance), but I doubt if anyone went home unhappy. Oh well, at least now we know better. And if you see anyone stomping his feet repeatedly on the floor for no apparent reason, it's probably one of us, preparing for the next episode of Txtrs5.

Gmeleen Faye B. Tomboc



TXTR'S 5... Ugh. We didn't even get 5 points.

Never again mock quiz show participants

IT is easy to be among the audience of any game show. It is always simple to be a spectator and mock those seemingly dumb and pushover participants. They seem to be dumb when they cannot catch-up with common-sense questions. They seem to be pushovers when they let themselves be stressed and get too panicky while playing against time. Foolish of me to assume that when even the smartest and the brightest correspondents of 2bU! joined the game show hype as we tried out the newest techie game show on TV, Globe's Txtrs5.

After I've learned that I get to try stumping over the gigantic cell phone in the Txtrs5 game show, I'm all up for it. Piece of cake, I thought. It will just be like a grade school quiz bee. As long as you know the answers, you will stay alive and remain in the game. After two rounds and not being able to make it to the third "double-the-money" round, I was ready to admit that I was seriously wrong. Sure, the set of questions during the first round was fairly easy. We, the Beach Bums Team, made it to Round 2. After earning P0.00 in Round 2, I realized it was not just about the questions, not even the answers.

Knowing the answer was not enough to win any quiz show game. As I've painstakingly learned, it's all about strategy. It is indeed a great wonder how adrenalin can push someone to plan and act accordingly. Feverish of the adrenalin rush after leading the Round One against the other 2bU! Team, we briefly discussed solutions to our shortcomings and our line of attack. Round One was tough enough. If it was not for the "practice" set of questions right before Round One, we could have left GMA 7 studio astounded and asking, "What had just happened?". Clueless and all up for it, we scrambled across the humungous keypad as we make the Beach Bums Team work. Key assignments were given and were off to look out for each other as the game goes on. But the wretched over-sized phone has no plans to cooperate. The letters don't speedily register on the screen as soon as you step on to it. Realizing this, I told my teammates to count. For example, if the letter we need is the third letter assigned to the key, we just have to count to three aloud and don't bother minding the screen. It worked, earning us the first 30 points. Then, my other teammate kept reminding us to shout the letter we're about to key-in to avoid confusion. Smashing! We earned 80 points and we just have to put our hands together and jig in victory.

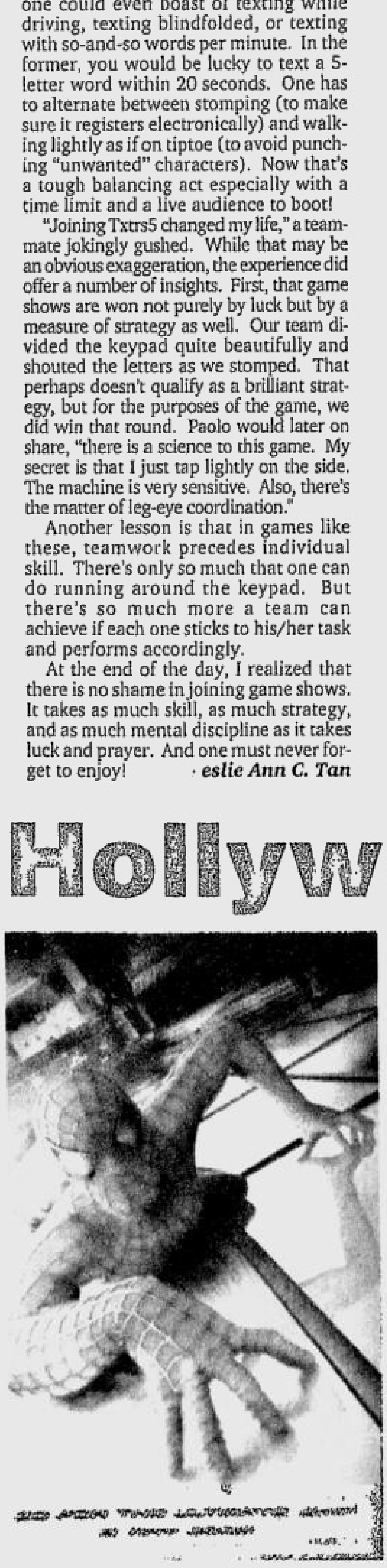
Our teamwork worked for Round One. After that, we were just mindful of how we will be able to get through Round Two. This time, each one of us will be called to key-in the answer, alone. I was buoyant and confident. I've seen this twice or thrice on television. Most questions have four-lettered answers. What's so tough in that? Shameful and shocked, I have to confess that it was barely trouble-free. Mindful of the slowly ticking time, I hurriedly and cautiously keyed-in "BERT" as an answer to the question: "*Sa Sesame Street, sino ang* partner *ni* Ernie?" We all knew the answers to each and every question individually addressed to us. On the contrary, we ended Round Two with a disgraceful P0.00. After that round we chuckled and snickered as we saw the money points we earned on the screen. Not ready to admit that we have shown our lowly worth as quiz show participants, I said "Blame it on our heavy lunch. Too much baby back ribs and ice tea spoiled our game skills." What a brilliant excuse!

He hosts the game, so it was just fitting for him to have tried the game himself and share the tips he learned. Paolo Bediones was glad that the 2bU! Team was around to try the game and he was more than happy to know we performed poorly. He could have just said that we suck, but it's out of his character. He was a pleasing gentleman, despite his being sick. According to him, eye and leg coordination is the key to winning the rounds in Txtrs5. Being able to hit the correct letters while checking the input on the screen is a tough skill. He then let us into a secret: the gigantic keypads were sensitive. We don't have to heavily stump on it. Even a light tap will key-in the letter. As a result, it makes it far easier to swiftly run from one key to another. He should have at least told us that before we played the game. Well then, it could have spoiled the fun.

Paolo said that he was glad that we have finally learned how strangely difficult it is to be in a game show. It made me realize that those participants and teams who do well in this kind of shows are indeed incredible. Most of them not only give correct answers, but also respond with speed. And when they do it in style, plus audience points for them. The crowd simply loves them. And those are the kind of crowds who don't take their attempt lightly. It takes guts and wit (and probably eye-leg coordination) to make it to game shows like Txtrs5. Still, it is always simple to just be a spectator.

Michelle Pino

Hollywood turns up the heat



From page E1

'MINORITY REPORT'

Mark it on your calendar: June 21, 2002.

It's a Tom Cruise movie. Cruise co-stars with Samantha Morton in this action detective thriller set in Washington D.C. in 2054, when psychic technology is used to arrest and convict murderers even before they commit their crimes.

And it's also a Spielberg movie. This is his first official foray into action films since the "Indiana Jones" series. And "**Minority**," if press releases are to be believed, will have more special effects than Spielberg's classic "**Close Encounters with the Third Kind.**"

Cruise and Spielberg say that "Minority" is like the hi-tech version of "Raiders of the Lost Ark."

"Waiting" scale: (Three full moons and a half)

'MEN IN BLACK 2'

Mark it on your calendar: July 3, 2002.

The last time around, the battle happened mostly on earth. This time, there's talk that an intergalactic battle will be happening just above the earth's atmosphere. Humans will no doubt be involved, with Tommy Lee Jones and Will Smith reprising their roles as MIB agents out to check alien "misdemeanors" on earth.

The agents' task will be more difficult, not only because of the intergalactic war, but also because they're going to be dealing with an alien bombshell, played by Lara Flynn Boyle, whose first acquaintance with terrestrial culture is with a Victoria Secret catalogue. Now, that's an "explosive" close encounter to watch for.

"Waiting" scale: (Three full moons)

There are, of course, other notable films due for release this year. And studios are scrambling for good publicity stunts to market their films in light of increasing pressure on them to perform well. "Star Trek" fanatics know that a new "Star Trek" movie is coming called "Nemesis" (due for December), but outside of the circle, little is heard of this movie. No offense to Trekies, but so many thoughtless "Star Trek" movies have been produced over the years that the legend is beginning to lose much of its mystique. But "**Nemesis**" producers are promising a "fresher perspective," so let's make this one a wait-and-see.

Kids and preteens, on the other hand, will have their plateful of movies, with upcoming releases of "**Scooby Doo**" and "**Powerpuff Girls, The Movie**" – both Warner Bros. productions to be released on June 14 and July 3, respectively.

"**Scooby Doo**" has experienced a rebirth of sorts in the last few years with new video releases. "**The Powerpuff Girls**," on the other hand, enjoys a tremendous following, spawning a comic book and a mass of merchandising gimmicks. The popular Cartoon Network program is up against "**MIB 2.**"

Then there's the much delayed Martin Scorsese epic (does he have to make one all the time?), "**Gangs of New York**," starring Leonardo DiCaprio. Variety magazine reports that it is three hours long, so producer Miramax is hoping to cut it down to just over two hours. Filming started back in August of 2000, but has only recently finished, for several reasons, causing the budget to bloat to as high as $120 million. The story features the beginnings of the Irish-Italian gang wars in early 19th century New York.

Teacher-student romance's no *fairy tale*

By Niño Mark Sablan
2bU! Correspondent

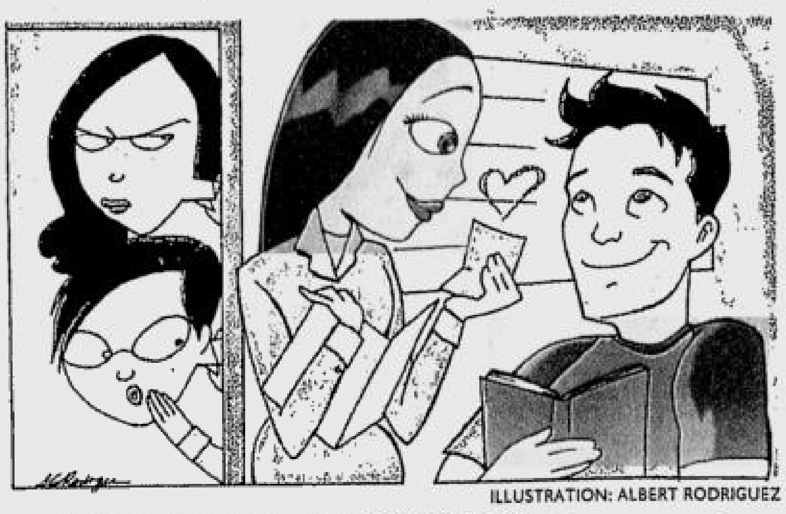


ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

IF I were a teacher and there was this amazingly irresistible student and we were mutually attracted to each other, I wouldn't find anything wrong with that. I wouldn't end the relationship just because society considers student-teacher romance taboo. But I wouldn't announce it in the football field either.

My teacher-friend "Calista," shared the same sentiments. On her second year of teaching college kids, the then 24-year-old instructor became part of a *barkada* composed of students and fellow teachers that went out drinking after school hours. All the relationships in that group started as platonic but changed after a while.

One Christmas Eve, Calista wondered why Affleck was trying to convince her to let him spend the night with her family. She wondered even more why she said yes. To make the story short, they became an item during the first few hours of Christmas Day, kissing to the tune of Sheryl Crow's "Strong Enough." The rest of the school Christmas break was spent thinking about what would happen when classes resumed since they were not planning to hold hands in the corridors.

But the whole thing was a big thrill for both. They exchanged meaningful looks, swapped love notes and met outside the school. They enjoyed the secret love affair. Then one day, one of them grew sick and tired of the routine. Affleck was frustrated and felt neglected because of Calista's busy schedule. "There were times when he wanted small talk or physical intimacy, but it was impossible because of school obligations and the growing suspicion of people around us," she said.

Following the breakup, Affleck got another girlfriend, a fellow student this time. Calista found more time for herself and her work. "Looking back I remember how I easily accepted the breakup. I guess it was easy to let him go because work was more important than the person involved," she said.

'I guess it was easy to let him go because work was more important than the person involved'

But Calista did cry, especially when she saw the student who took her place in Affleck's heart. She revealed bits of the story to friends, some students and a few fellow professors, who didn't like what they heard and saw. More than anything else, they didn't like the way she was still hurting over the breakup.

Calista eventually transferred to another school for a brand-new start. The first few months were amazing, then history repeated itself.

She was about ready to contemplate suicide—an exaggeration really—when very unexpectedly she crossed paths with Affleck. Brokenhearted, she cried in her ex's arms, who was now with another girl after the one who replaced Calista. The past was brought up, old hurts resurfaced, unsettled "accounts" were recalled. They felt wonderful after their long talk and they decided they were going to remain friends.

At present, that's what Calista and Affleck are—friends. Or so they say. "Things are so much better now that we're just friends," she says, if you can believe that.

Calista's words often reverberate in my head. "I don't owe anybody an explanation, especially the ones who are not important and special in my life. You don't choose the people you fall in love with. You just fall in love. And during those days, Affleck just happened to be one of my students."

E-mail the author at katotino@yahoo.com

Don't let the sun damage your hair and scalp

Make Over 911
Kinny Salas

IMPORTANT summer tip: Those of you who love the outdoors probably think you have it all covered with your sunblocks and shades. Upon observation, I noticed that a lot of you have neglected certain areas that are by no means immune to sun damage and skin cancer.

Let us start with your head, particularly your hair and scalp. You can, of course, wear a hat to protect both, but a lot of us don't want to face the ridicule of others who make fun of hats in the Philippines. The sunblock for your skin is good enough for your hair, or you may apply a leave-in or deep conditioner to prevent overbleaching and breakage caused by the sun. Reapply every four hours as with skin.

You may argue that you have hair to protect your scalp, but studies show that the part of your hair, which leaves the scalp bare, is a favorite spot for skin cancer or melanoma. A favorite trick of mine is to apply SPF lip balm on my part, because the waxy consistency helps it stay put and does not run all over the rest of my hair to make it look greasy. This is especially handy if you are not on the beach.

From the neck up, we seem to forget our napes (back of neck), ears and lip area. The lips are the most frequent areas where skin cancer is found. As for the rest of the body, there are the fingers and toenails, hands and feet (the latter because we wash it most often) and the areas under the swimsuit. The lighter the color of the suit, the more vulnerable we are to UVA, UVB and infrared.

For the lips, there are, of course, lip balms with SPF that need to be reapplied, and for the ears and nape, sunblock should be applied generously as the skin in these areas is thin and delicate so they will be the first to show premature aging. Remember that even the most skilled plastic surgeons have trouble "lifting" the neck area.

Why the nails? Sun damage will discolor and weaken them by peeling the upper layer that makes the nails more susceptible to chipping and splitting. There are cosmetic companies that have made topcoats with SPF, Teflon and calcium to strengthen as well as protect.

* * *

I love this brand of gel cup breast enhancers you road-tested in your column years ago. I wear them with my swimsuits and during my workouts. Every summer though, I have a problem with sweating and rashes especially in my workout classes. How can I prevent this?

I was also told by a relative in the US that they come in different sizes. What size did I purchase here in the home-shopping network and is there a bigger one than this? There are days I wish I was bigger than this for other clothes.

SHBOOM

Do you really need to wear them for workouts in the summer? Well, if other people think these are "real," you wouldn't have much of a choice.

I would suggest that you apply cornstarch powder before you wear the gel caps so it will act as a barrier and prevent you from sweating profusely. After the workout, run to the shower and repeat procedure. Please wash the gel cups with mild soap and tap or warm water, then rinse properly and dry. I find that other women don't wash them as often as they should, which results in bad odor and rashes.

They only come in one size in the TV shopping here and that is "large." The three sizes are small, large and extra large. "Small" is for women who are between cup sizes, e.g. almost a B or C who want to complete the cup. "Extra large" increases you to two cup sizes bigger. Unfortunately, they only sell the "large" here that will make you 1-½ cup sizes bigger. To obtain the bigger size, you will have to ask your relatives abroad to buy for you.

For any questions or products you want to road-test, write to Make over 911, PDI Lifestyle or fax to 897-4805

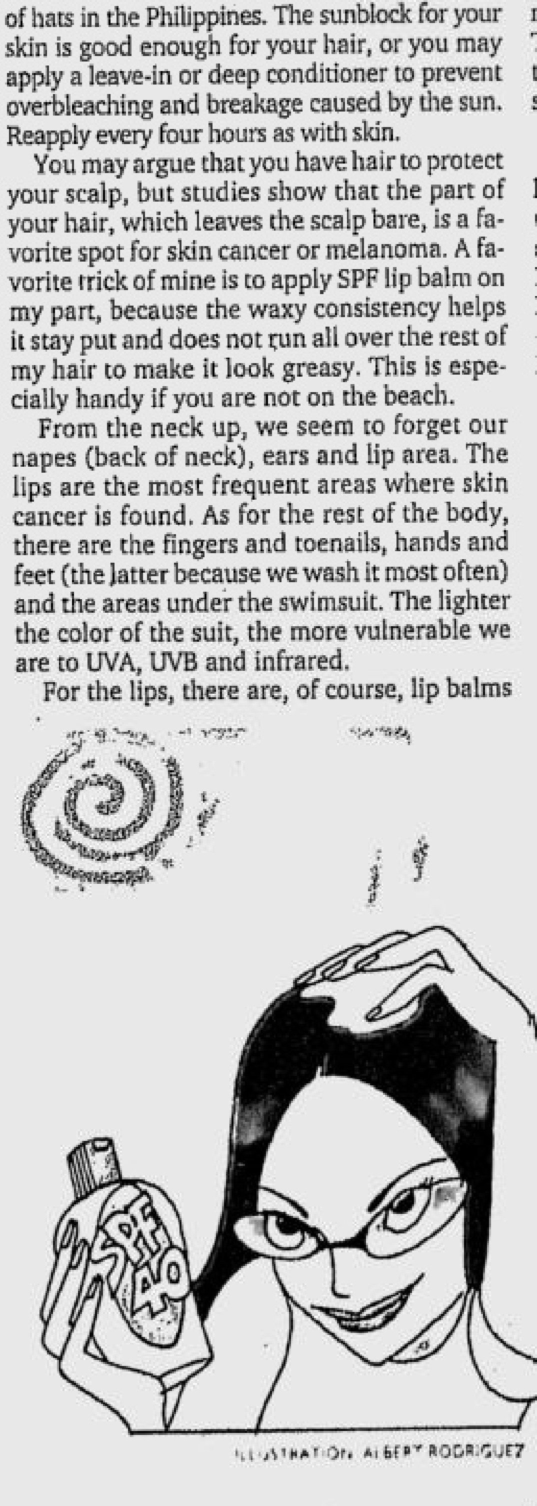
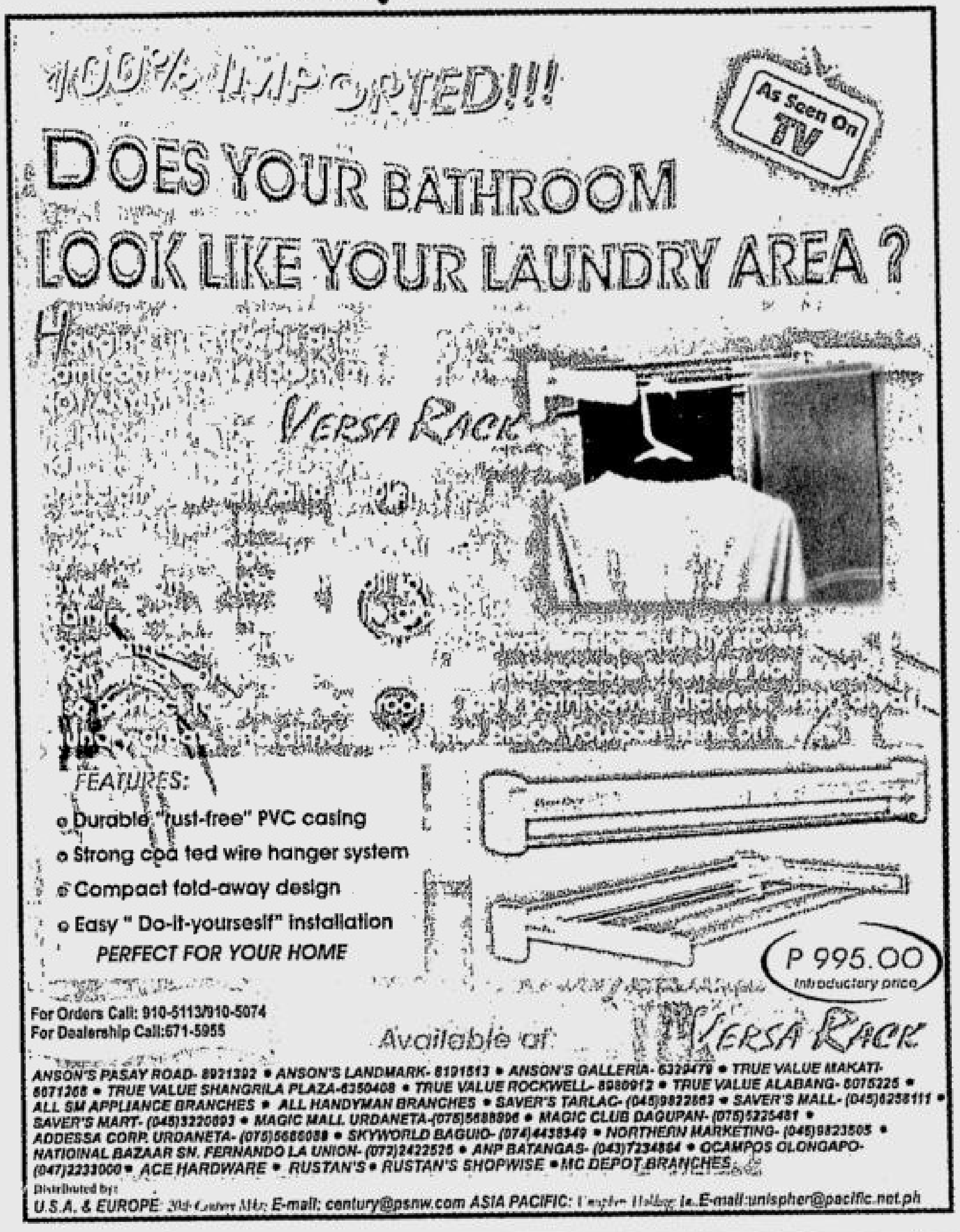


ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ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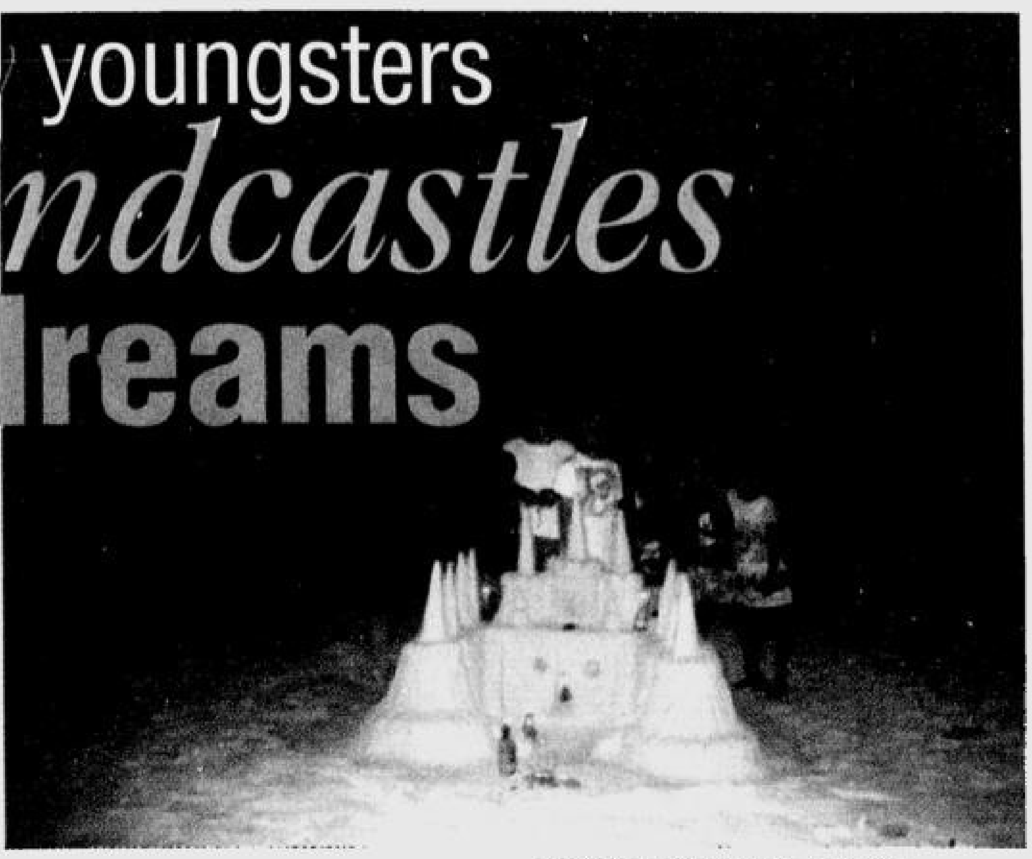
Boracay youngsters build sandcastles to achieve dreams

As long as it does not interfere with their studies, De los Santos and friends plan to continue doing their art to help meet school expenses



SHINING, shimmering, splendid sandcastle with its creators and the author

Text and photo by Giles Ivan A. Aquino
2bU! Correspondent

WITH MAJORITY of the Philippine population marginalized, it is not surprising many young people not only try to stretch their allowance as far as it can go, but also try to augment it by doing all kinds of odd jobs.

In Manila, they can be seen on the streets selling various goods. But in Boracay, enterprising kids can be seen along the island's shores. They are not begging nor selling bracelets and necklaces. These kids, especially those along the shores of Station 1, turn Boracay sand into art, getting donations from passersby.

Unlike painters and sculptors who go to school to learn their art, the youngsters make Boracay their classroom. One young lady got a brainstorm after attending a birthday party. Fifteen-year-old Roselyn de los Santos, a student of Boracay High School, recalls how she and some friends got into sand art. "*Kagagaling ko lang noon sa* birthday party *ng kaibigan ko. May dala-dala akong kutsara galing sa* party *tapos sinubukan kong gumawa ng bulaklak gamit yung kutsara at yung buhangin. Simple lang noong una hanggang sa umabot na nga sa mga malalaki gaya nito* (pointing to her latest creation)."

She never thought she could make money from her hobby. But soon after, passersby started to appreciate her work and to give donations.

Serious hobby

The first time she went home with some cash, her parents were very curious about how she got the money. She told them that she got the money from people who admired and took pictures of her work. "*Natutuwa naman yung mga magulang namin. Sabi nila na para sa amin din yung kinikita namin para meron kaming pang-gastos pagdating ng pasukan.*"

In De los Santos' experience, it takes three hours to make a sandcastle while large flowers take almost an hour or two to finish depending on the intricacy of the design. "*Nagsisimula kami ng mga* 3 p.m. *pag* castle *yung ginagawa namin kasi mas mahirap buoin yon kesa sa mga bulaklak*," she said. Sand art is usually meant to be admired in the evening as it is lit by gas burners that make it more appealing and artsy. For her "sand flower," she used one gas burner, which she put in the center. The work looked more like the sun with its petal-like rays.

In one day she would get a total of P100-200. "*Iniipon namin yon para sa mga gamit namin sa eskwela at sa pang-araw-araw naming gastusin. Sa isang buwan minsan nakaka* - P4,000." The amount would depend on the season. When there are fewer visitors in Boracay she averages P50 a day. "*May mga panahon na hindi na rin kami nakakagawa kasi* high tide. *Walang mapaggawan*," De los Santos said.

Long-running venture

She and her friends have been making their sand art since 1999 and, as long as it does not interfere with their studies, they plan to continue doing it to help meet their school expenses. Like any other teenager, De los Santos has dreams, which she hopes to achieve by finishing her studies. She encourages kids like her to also think of ways to help ease their parents' burdens or to be able to save up for things they want. But she said it should be something that they enjoy doing so they do not miss out on the joys of childhood, which they might regret later.

Now that classes are about to start, De los Santos is again saving up for the incoming school year. "*Malaking tulong din itong ginagawa ko hindi lang para sa mga magulang ko pero para rin sa pag-aaral ko*," she says.

When my friend Stu and I were on our way back to Station 3, I thought that we gave such a small amount, but then I realized that our donation of P20 was not bad at all. That little amount could be De los Santos' *baon* or her fare for a day, or it could buy her a notebook or two. I just hope that the people's generosity would inspire her and her friends to pursue their studies and live up to Jose Rizal's dream that the Filipino youth will become the hope of the fatherland.

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